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*ANNALS OF  
LOWER DEESIDE*

*John A. Henderson.*

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## ANNALS OF LOWER DEESIDE





ANNALS  
OF  
LOWER DEESIDE

BEING A  
TOPOGRAPHICAL, PROPRIETARY  
ECCLESIASTICAL, AND ANTIQUARIAN  
HISTORY OF  
**Durrís, Drumoak, and Qulter**

BY  
JOHN A. HENDERSON  
AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF BANCHORY-DEVENICK"

ABERDEEN: D. WYLLIE & SON  
1892

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE history of the larger number of our Scottish parishes has not hitherto received the attention its importance deserves. There is abundant material of great value awaiting collection which is of more than parochial or local interest. In course of time many of the documents and traditions which are now available will be lost or forgotten, and with them will pass away the record of much that not only has a charm for the antiquarian, but no little interest and value both for the historian of our country, and for the delineator of the character and manners of our countrymen in the days of old.

These considerations, together with a liking for the subject, have induced the author to prepare and submit to the public the following *Annals of Lower Deeside*, embracing the parishes of Durris, Drumoak, and Culter. It is hoped that, while material exists, others of antiquarian taste, with greater ability and more time at their disposal, may enter this interesting field of research, and give to the country the benefit of their investigations.

In consequence of the scarcity of published matter bearing upon the district treated of, the

writer has had to rely for information chiefly upon the title deeds and charters of estates, manuscripts, legal prints, and Presbytery and Kirk Session records, all of which were ungrudgingly placed at his disposal on application, and many extracts from which now appear for the first time. Where material has been taken from published works, it has invariably been acknowledged, and references have been given.

The Kirk Session records of these parishes extend to twenty-nine large volumes, the examination of which alone is no slight task ; but they throw so much light upon the old forms of ecclesiastical discipline, and the habits and state of the people of the last two centuries, that the labour has been amply repaid by the results obtained.

Readers of exclusively antiquarian taste may be inclined to think that the transactions of *The Maryculter Club*, which are here published for the first time, scarcely harmonize with the general character and aim of the work, but the extracts disclose such a striking contrast between the social state of half a century ago and that of to-day, that they may not prove uninteresting to the general reader. Antiquarian students may also bear in mind that these extracts are of an interest that will increase with the passage of years, for future

writers of parochial history will no doubt regard them as important helps in the description of local social life in an age that will stand in a more antique relation to them than it does to us.

In addition to the acknowledgments made in the body of the work, cordial thanks are tendered to the many gentlemen who have kindly given access to their title deeds and other documents, to Kirk Sessions for their ready permission to use their records, and specially to the Rev. William Lawrence, M.A., minister of Banchory-Devenick, for revising the proof sheets as the work passed through the press.

The greatest care has been exercised to ensure perfect accuracy in all dates and statements, so that the work might be authoritative in its own department ; and the author expresses the hope that the pleasure of readers in perusing the book may be as great as his in preparing it.

JOHN A. HENDERSON.

AVONDALE, CULTS,

ABERDEEN, *March, 1892.*



## CONTENTS.



### PARISH OF DURRIS.

	Page
DURRIS, - - - - -	1
Originally a hunting forest, 1. In the possession of the Cumin Family, 1. Succession of the Fraser Family and notices regarding their descendants, 2-14. Bought by Anthony Mactier, 14. Bought by Dr. James Young, 15. Bought by Henry Robert Baird, 16. Description of Mansion House and Policies, 16, 17. Antiquarian finds and traditional lore, 18-21.	
HOGGS OF BLAIRYDRINE, - - - - -	22
Notices of the Family and descendants, 22-24.	
PARISH CHURCH, - - - - -	25
Early history, 25-27. Description of Communion Utensils, 28. Notices of Ministers, 28-32. Extracts from Ecclesiastical Records, 32-34.	

### PARISH OF DRUMOAK.

DRUMOAK, - - - - -	35
Boundaries, &c., 35. Antiquities, 36. Superstitious Customs, 37. Case of Body-snatching, 38-42.	



ESTATE OF DRUM, - - - - -	Page 43
Originally a Hunting Forest, 43. Wauchopes of Culter Royal Foresters, 43. Bestowed by Robert the Bruce upon William de Irwine or Irvine, 43. Notices regarding the Irvine Family, 44-63. Description of Castle, 63-65.	
ESTATE OF LEYS, - - - - -	65
Early Notices of the Family of Burnett, 65, 66. Made Foresters of Drum, 66. Lands made into the Barony of Leys, 67. Notices of the Family, 67-69. Description of Crathes Castle, 69, 70. Extracts from Barony Court Book, 70-73.	
ESTATE OF PARK, - - - - -	73
Park reserved by Robert I., and subsequently granted to Walter Moigne, thereafter to Alexander Irvine, and afterwards to Patrick Duff, 73. Notices respecting subsequent Proprietors, 74, 75.	
PARISH CHURCH, - - - - -	75
Notices respecting titular Saint, 75, 76. Church Confirmed to See of Aberdeen, 76. History of the Parish Churches, 77-82. Notices of Ministers, 82-89. Extracts from Kirk Session Records, 89-106.	
PARISH OF PETERCULTER.	
PETERCULTER, - - - - -	107
Early History, 107. Notices regarding Pre-historic Remains and Antiquities, 108-110. Legends, &c., 110-115.	

	Page
ESTATE OF CULTER, - - - - -	115
Owned by Alan the Durward, 115. Succession of the Cumin Family and notices regarding them, 116-120. Succession of the Duffs, and notices respecting them, 120-124.	
DRUM PROPERTY, - - - - -	125
Notices regarding Anguston, Kennerty, Linn, and Leuchar, 125, 126.	
ESTATE OF COUNTESSWELLS, - - - - -	126
Early notices regarding Countesswells, Gardin, and Brutherfield, 126. Acquired by John Leith, 126. Succession of the Burnetts, there- after of the Sandilands, 127. Property bought by Alexander Livingston, thereafter by James Burnett, 128. Bought by James Gammell, 129.	
CULTER PAPER WORKS, - - - - -	129
Origin of Works, 129. Changes of Proprietors, &c., 130.	
SCHOOLMASTERS, - - - - -	131
William Forbes, author of "The Dominie Depos'd," 132. Selections from the Poem, 134. George Skene Keith, 135.	
PARISH CHURCH, - - - - -	135
Description of Communion Utensils, &c., 136, Notices regarding Ministers, 137-144. Extracts from Session Records, 145-151.	

## PARISH OF MARYCULTER.

MARYCULTER, - - - - -	Page 152
Origin of Parish, 152. History of the Knights Templars and Knights Hospitallers, and their connection with it, 152-165. Notices regarding Graveyards, 165. Legend regarding Godfrey Wedderburn, 167-176,	
ESTATE OF MARYCULTER, - - - - -	176
Notices regarding the Estate and Fishings, 176. Erected into a Barony, 177. Acquired by the Menziez Family, 177. Bought by the Gordons of Fyvie, 177.	
ESTATE OF ALTRIES, - - - - -	179
Notices regarding the Property and its Proprie- tors—the Kinloch Family, 179, 180.	
ESTATE OF KINGCAUSIE, - - - - -	180
Acquired by the Irvine Family, 180. Succession of the Boswell Family, 182.	
ESTATE OF BLAIRS, - - - - -	184
Acquired by Gilbert Menziez of Findon, 184. Notices regarding the Menziez Family, 186-189. Notices respecting Books and Paintings, 189-195. Notices regarding the College, 195.	
ESTATE OF AUCHLUNIES, - - - - -	195
Acquired by the Family of Collinson or Collison, 196. Acquired by James Brand, merchant, Cullen, thereafter by Patrick Souper, 199. No- tices regarding subsequent Proprietors, 200-201.	

---

ESTATE OF HEATHCOT, - - -	Page 201
Sold off Auchlunies to Thomas Gordon of Prem- nay, 201. Succession of Lady Mary Banner- man, 201. Notices regarding subsequent Pro- prietors, &c., 201-203,	
PARISH CHURCH, - - -	203
Early Notices regarding the Old Church, 203-206. Description of the New Church and its Pulpit, Windows, and Communion Plate, 206. Notices respecting Ministers, 206-210. Notices regard- ing Session Records, 211, 212.	
MARYCULTER CLUB, - - -	212
Notices regarding Origin and Rules, 212-216. List of Members with their Club Titles, 216- 219. Extract Minutes, 220-247.	
POPULATION STATISTICS, - - -	248



## ANNALS OF LOWER DEESIDE.

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### D U R R I S.

D U R R I S, or *Dores*, in early times was a hunting forest, with a castle or hunting seat of considerable strength. It was occupied for a time by Alexander III., and the earliest mention of it occurs in the *Chamberlain Rolls* of that period, when certain sums of money were paid for repairs and alterations of the vessels and bridge at the house of Durris. Whether the bridge was of wood or stone is not recorded, but the connection in which it is mentioned suggests the probability of its having been a drawbridge for the castle, which would appear to have been moated.

When Edward I. overran Scotland, and had almost the whole of it in subjection, he gave the keepership of the forest of Durris to his faithful allies the Cumin family, for in the mandate of

Edward, in 1292, the Earl of Buchan is mentioned as holding that office.<sup>1</sup> In July, 1296, the English King, in the course of his march through Scotland, visited the castle, where certain of the barons of the district paid him homage.

The downfall of the Cumin family, during the reign of Robert the Bruce, led, not only to the forfeiture of the various offices held by them, but also to the confiscation of the greater portions of their extensive properties, and it is upon record in Robertson's *Index of Scottish Charters*<sup>2</sup> that Durris was in the hands of the Crown in 1308.

Many writers and eminent antiquarians have fallen into the mistake of supposing that Sir Alexander Fraser, who married the sister of Robert the Bruce, and who acted as Lord Chamberlain of Scotland during the greater part of the reign of that King, was the first proprietor of Durris. A minute examination of the various authorities shews that the first owner, who had a direct grant from the Crown, was William Fraser, second son of Sir Alexander Fraser the Chamberlain. He married Margaret Moray, daughter of Sir Andrew Moray of Bothwell, and the title of his charter from David II. runs thus:—"To William Fraser, and Margaret Murray, his spouse, of the thanedom of Durris and thanedom of Collie [Cowie], whilk thanedom of Collie was Alexander Fraser's, his father, with the lands of Eskyltuh, Essintuly, in

1. Rotuli Scotiæ, I. p. 10.

2. Robertson's Index, p. 68, No. 8.

Kincardine.”<sup>1</sup> From this it is manifest that, although Cowie had belonged to Sir Alexander Fraser the Chamberlain, Durrus did not do so, and no mention of it occurs in the list of the many possessions of that Knight.

William Fraser’s career was an eventful one. Associating himself with his father-in-law, the brave Sir Andrew Moray, Sir William Douglas, and the other Scottish leaders who maintained the struggle against English domination, he took part in the various engagements and exploits which culminated in the surprise and capture of Edinburgh Castle in April, 1341.<sup>2</sup>

Six weeks later, King David, with his Queen, returned from France and landed at Inverbervie.<sup>3</sup> Soon after his arrival he is said to have held his Court at Perth, and there to have bestowed lands and other rewards upon those who had signalized themselves in his cause and service, or whose parents had lost their lives at Dupplin, Halidon Hill, or in the other conflicts which had taken place during the preceding decade.<sup>4</sup>

William Fraser, whose claims under these categories were so conspicuous (his father Sir Alexander Fraser was killed at the battle of Dupplin), obtained a grant of the thanages of Durrus and Cowie as before mentioned, but

1. Robertson’s *Index*, p. 60, No. 14.

2. Fordun, *Gesta Annalia*, cap. clx.

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Frasers of Philorth*, I., p. 100.



unfortunately the charter by which these possessions were conferred is no longer extant, the title of it in Robertson's *Index* being all that remains.<sup>1</sup> It is believed that from the hand of his Sovereign he at the same time received the honour of knighthood, to which rank his title in a charter to one of his sons, and in the notice of his death shows that he attained. In all likelihood he served in the earlier expeditions of David II. into the Northern Counties of England, at least he took part in the disastrous campaign of 1346, which ended in the defeat of the Scotch at Durham, in which battle he was slain.<sup>2</sup> His widow survived for many years, for, fourteen years later, an entry in the *Chamberlain Rolls* shews her in receipt of a pension from the lands of the thanage of Cowie.<sup>3</sup>

Sir William Fraser left two sons:—Alexander who succeeded him in Cowie and Durris, and John who, in 1373, had a charter from Robert II. of the land of Wester Essyntuly, which formerly belonged to John de Dalgarnock, and had been resigned by him into the hands of the King, to be held of the King by the said John Fraser and his heirs for payment of one silver penny yearly, in name of blench farm, at the Castle-hill of Durris.<sup>4</sup>

The premature death of Sir William Fraser left his sons in minority, and the thanages of Cowie and

1. Robertson's *Index*, p. 60, No. 14.

2. *Scotichronicon*, lib. XIV., cap. iii.

3. *Chamberlain Rolls*, I., p. 280.

4. *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, Roll II., No. 17.

Durrus were in the hands of the Crown, in ward, as the hereditary estates of the eldest son, Alexander, till he attained majority. He appears to have been in full possession in 1367, and two years later David II. granted him the whole royal lands of the thanage of Durrus, erecting them into a free barony, to be held from the Crown by him and his heirs for three attendances each year at the Head Court of the Sherifffdom of Kincardine, and the service of an archer in the royal army.<sup>1</sup> He must have been ennobled about the same time, for, though not styled "*Miles*" in the charter of Durrus, he bore that rank in the following year but one, at the coronation of Robert II. He was also appointed Sheriff of Aberdeen, in which capacity his name appears in the *Chamberlain Rolls* of 1369,<sup>2</sup> when Philip de Dunbreck made a payment as his lieutenant in that office which he held till 1399.

On the 26th of March, 1371, he was one of the barons who attended the coronation of Robert II., and on the following day did homage to the King and affirmed in Parliament the order of the succession to the Crown. Ten years later he attended another Parliament, when a second and more precise settlement of the succession was enacted.<sup>3</sup>

In 1375 he married Johanna, younger daughter of William, Earl of Ross, and, in June of the same

1. Reg. Mag. Sig., Lib. I., No. 229.

2. Chamberlain Rolls I., p. 506.

3. Acts of Parliament, I., pp. 181, 185.

year, Sir Walter de Leslie, *Dominus de Ross*, who had married the elder daughter, granted him a charter to about fifteen estates, which comprised portions of the parishes of Fraserburgh, Rathen, Pitsligo, Aberdour, Tyrie, and Strichen. These lands constituted the lordship of Philorth, from which he afterwards took his title. In the following year he granted to his brother John, who, as before stated, had acquired Wester Essintuly, the lands of Auchinshogill, Plady, Loncardy,<sup>1</sup> and others which formed part of the Philorth property.

In 1387-8 John was designed of Forglen, which had come into his possession by a grant from the Abbot of Arbroath.<sup>2</sup>

The estates bestowed by Sir Alexander Fraser were unquestionably part of those he had acquired through his marriage, and it seems for some years to have been doubtful how far it was in his power to dispose of such property, for in 1385 he gave to his brother John a letter of obligation, to the effect that he should have the whole lands of the barony of Durris in compensation, if by any legal process he should be ejected from the lands that he had granted to him. No such eviction, however, occurred, and John Fraser retained these estates, which, by the terms of the charter of 1376, were to be held by him and his heirs as feudatories of Sir Alexander and his successors, for the delivery of a

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, I., p. 470.

2. *Ibid*, p. 511.

pair of gilt spurs at the manor place of Philorth on each feast of Pentecost.<sup>1</sup>

In 1388 Sir Alexander Fraser accompanied the heroic James, second Earl of Douglas, on his expedition into Northumberland, and was present at the battle of Otterburn, at which the latter was slain.

Lady Johanna Ross died before 1400, as in that year a second wife appears upon the scene, in the person of Elizabeth de Hamilton, who is understood to have been of the family of Cadzow, ancestors of the ducal house of Hamilton. On the 20th of September, of the year mentioned, Sir Alexander Fraser, with the consent of the said Elizabeth de Hamilton, granted a charter to his son, Alexander Fraser, of "all the lands of the two Kynclonyes, of Balcharn, and of Balfuthachy, with their pertinents in the barony of Durrys,"<sup>2</sup> to be held under himself and Elizabeth de Hamilton or the survivor, and under the heirs of the second marriage; but, failing such heirs, he granted him the whole barony of Durris. In the confirmation of that charter by Robert III. in the same year,<sup>3</sup> and also in a second confirmation of it by James I.,<sup>4</sup> the Alexander Fraser to whom it was granted is called the natural son (*filio naturali*) of his father, the granter, but the charter itself does not contain

1. Frasers of Philorth, I., p. 116.

2. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 362.

3. *Ibid*, p. 362.

4. *Ibid*, p. 365.

that expression, and was given "*Alexandro Fraser, filio meo dilecto.*"<sup>1</sup>

As there was no issue of the second marriage, this Alexander Fraser obtained the whole lands of the barony, in terms of the charter, and was the first to take his distinctive title from the estate of Durris.

Sir Alexander Fraser of Durris, and the first of Philorth, died in or before 1411, as, in October of that year, William, his only son by the first marriage, appears as *Dominus de Philorth*, and in possession of the family estates. In 1404 he married Eleanor Douglas, of the Earl of Douglas's family, who had a pension granted her by the Countess of Mar and the Garioch.<sup>2</sup> Within the next year he received the honour of knighthood, and doubtless had considerable influence in the North. Whether he was implicated in the rebellion of Donald, Lord of the Isles, which ended abruptly in the battle of Harlaw in 1411, cannot be accurately stated, but it is significant that in October of that year he sold certain lands to Lord Forbes; that two years later he was obliged to make a further sacrifice of his estates; and that on the 10th October, 1413, he agreed to sell the whole lands of Cowie and Durris (reserving the life-rent interest of his stepmother, Lady Elizabeth de Hamilton, who was infeft in them) "for

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 362.

2. *Ibid*, p. 576.

euirmare" to William de Hay, Lord of Errol and Constable of Scotland, for "a soume of sylure" before-hand in his "mykle mistre" [great necessity] to him "payit."<sup>1</sup>

This last transaction is somewhat perplexing ; for if, as before stated, the lands of Durris had effectually passed to the natural son, Alexander Fraser, it is difficult to explain how William Fraser of Philorth could have had any patrimonial interest in them. Prior and subsequent charters, however, as well as the fact that in the Crown charter, granted to Errol two years afterwards, Durris is excluded, give ground for the conclusion that his title to that property was bad. It may be that the legal rights of Alexander Fraser were not operative till the death of Lady Hamilton, and, as she survived her husband for several years, William Fraser may have taken advantage of this to endeavour to usurp his kinsman's possession.

In 1430 James I. confirmed a charter of the lands to Alexander Fraser, who is believed to have been succeeded by a son, also named Alexander, as in 1491 Sasine was granted in favour of William Fraser, who is designed as son and heir of Alexander Fraser, his father, in the lordship of Durris.

Three years later the Bishop of Brechin raised an action before the Lords of Council, setting forth that "William Fresale" withheld from him

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III, p. 364.

and the Kirk of Brechin "the second teynd of his relief of the lands of Durris," which was claimed as belonging to that Bishopric.<sup>1</sup>

In 1527 a bond of manrent was granted by William Fraser of Ouchterdurris, son and heir of William Fraser of Durris, to Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum, and to Alexander Irvine of Forglen, his son and heir.<sup>2</sup>

In 1609 the proprietor seems to have been on bad terms with his neighbours, the Hoggs of Blairydrine, for in June of that year Hogg complained to the Privy Council that "Fraser and others to the number of fifty all armed lay in wait on purpose to slay him." Not getting the legal satisfaction expected, Hogg, in the following month, accompanied by several dependants and friends, went to the house in Aberdeen in which the Frasers were residing, "and pressed violently to enter therein," which they would have succeeded in doing had they not "been stayed by some good people." On the following day the Frasers, in passing to Old Aberdeen, were followed by the same band "with drawn swords and with bent hagbuts and pistolletes," but mischief was prevented through the pursuers being "stopped by the magistrates at the port."<sup>3</sup>

In 1615-16 Alexander Fraser, then laird, and his son, Robert, acquired from Sir Alexander Fraser,

1. Acta. Dom. Con., p. 355

2. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 306.

3. Privy Council Register, VIII., pp. 332-3

eighth Lord of Philorth, the lands of Cairnbulg and Invernorth, which formed portions of the original lordship of Philorth,<sup>1</sup> but shortly afterwards, the purchasers, who appear to have got into embarrassed circumstances, sold these possessions to Andrew Fraser of Muchal, in contravention of the conditions under which they had been acquired. Before the middle of the seventeenth century Durris also had passed into the hands of the representative of the Muchal family, who had been raised to the rank of "Lord Fraser."<sup>2</sup>

During the wars of the Covenanters, Forbes of Leslie, whom Spalding describes as a "gryte Covenanter," occupied the Castle of Durris, and, fearing that his house might be plundered by the Royalists, he had part of his effects hidden or carried away to a place of greater security. As anticipated, the castle was soon afterwards attacked by the Gordons, who, in the absence of better fare, "gat good beir and aill, bruk wp girnellis and book [baked] bannokis at good fyres, and drank mirrellie vpone the lairdis best drink, syne careit away with thame alss mekill victuall as thay could beir, quhilk they culd not get eitin and distroyit."<sup>3</sup> This was in 1639. Five 'years later the place was again visited by the soldiery, at the instance of Robert Irving, for the purpose of preventing the capture and removal of the "girnellis," which,

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 58.

2. *Fraser's of Philorth*, II., p. 144.

3. *Spalding's Troubles*, I., p. 188.



as they contained "auchtein scoir bollis," would have tested the strength as well as stimulated the cupidity of the attacking party. Ten soldiers were left in charge, who seem to have been quite comfortable, having had ample "nolt and scheip and vther commodeties." But it was upon Sunday, 17th March, 1645, that Durris suffered most severely, for the Marquis of Montrose, then on his march southward, plundering and burning the lands and houses of such of the Covenanters as lay in his route, set fire to "the place, lauche bigging, and haill cornes, and spolzeit the haill ground [of Durris] of horss, nolt, scheip, and vther goodis."<sup>1</sup>

In 1669 Sir Alexander Fraser, a descendant of the old family of Fraser, had a charter of confirmation of Durris, upon the resignation of Lord Fraser before mentioned. Sir Alexander was educated at Aberdeen, and, qualifying as a Doctor, became the physician and one of the favourites of Charles II.<sup>2</sup> He acted as guide to that King in his expedition to Scotland in 1650, but on the 27th September of that year he, and several others described as "profaine, scandalous, malignant, and disaffected persons," were ordered by the Committee of Estates to remove from the Court, within twenty-four hours, under pain of imprisonment.<sup>3</sup>

Having amassed considerable wealth he was enabled to purchase the estate of Durris from

1. Spalding's *Trubles*, II., p. 458.

2. *Memoirs of the Duffs*, p. 140.

3. Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, II., p. 266.

Lord Fraser. He was much attached to the district, the air of which "he was wont to compare to that of Windsor, then reckoned the finest in England." He was twice married, and by his first wife, Elizabeth Dochty, had two sons and a daughter. The younger of his sons, Charles, translated Plutarch's *Lives*, and is supposed to have been the author of *The Turkish Spy*.<sup>1</sup> By his second wife, Mary Carey, he had a son and a daughter, the former of whom became Sir Peter Fraser, and was the last Fraser of Durris.

By formal deed, dated 15th March, 1754, Sir Peter Fraser's widow, then designed as "Dame Ann Fraiser alias Heron," mortified twelve hundred pounds to be applied as follows:—One hundred pounds to the Kirk Session of Durris on behalf of the poor; Fifty pounds to the Kirk Session of Strachan for a like object; Four hundred pounds to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; One hundred pounds to the Managers of St. Paul's Chapel; Five hundred pounds to eight decayed gentlewomen of Aberdeen; and Fifty pounds to poor householders of Aberdeen. By the same deed she altered the conditions of a legacy bequeathed under a previous settlement to Lady Henrietta Gordon, in respect that, Lady Henrietta having gone into a Popish monastery, there was risk of the money being "applied to superstitious uses."

Sir Peter Fraser's daughter and heiress, Carey,

1. Memorials Angus and Mearns, I., p. 162.

a maid of honour to Catherine, Queen of Charles II., married the celebrated general, Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, by whom she had an only daughter, Henrietta Mordaunt, who became the wife of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon ; and by this means the estate of Durris eventually passed to that ducal house.<sup>1</sup>

Immediately on the estate becoming the patrimony of the Gordon family, extensive improvements were inaugurated, and have been continued ever since. The wife of the second Duke of Gordon was noted for her intellectual vigour and activity, and it was largely through her influence that an improved mode of husbandry was introduced into the district, and a great deal of planting was undertaken.

In the end of last century the estate was held under a long lease by John Innes of Leuchars, near Elgin, who was for many years sheriff-substitute of Kincardineshire, and died 10th May, 1852, in his eightieth year. He was the father of the well-known literary antiquary and Professor of History in the University of Edinburgh, Cosmo Innes, who was born at Durris House.

On the entail of the estate being transferred, under an Act of Parliament, to property in the immediate neighbourhood of Gordon Castle, Durris was sold in 1834 to Anthony Mactier, who was for some time a successful merchant in Madras. He

1. Memorials Angus and Mearns, I., p. 162.

married Maria, daughter of Alexander Binny of St. Andrews, and died on 5th August, 1854, aged eighty-one. His son, Alexander, who succeeded, sold the estate in 1871 to Dr. James Young of Kelly, paraffin oil manufacturer, for the sum of Three hundred thousand pounds.

Dr. Young was entirely a self-made man. Being born of parents in the humble ranks of life, his education had no attention, and while little more than a child he was apprenticed to the joinery trade in his native city of Glasgow. While yet a boy he became interested in the study of chemistry, and, when his slender means permitted, attended the chemical classes in the Andersonian University, which were then under the charge of Thomas Graham, who afterwards became Professor of Chemistry in the London University, and subsequently Master of the Mint. When Graham removed to London he carried his pupil along with him as his class-assistant. Some years were spent by Young in the laboratory of the London University, and he then removed to Liverpool, where he assumed the post of manager of certain chemical works. From Liverpool he migrated to Manchester as one of the chiefs of departments in the branch there of the St. Rollox works. When he quitted this situation, it was to proceed to Derbyshire for the purpose of working a petroleum spring, and of conducting certain experiments in the manufacture of artificial oil. These, in 1851, were crowned by complete success in the discovery

of paraffin, which has made the name of *Young* famous throughout the civilized world. From this, and subsequent discoveries, he became the possessor of great wealth, and was thereby enabled to purchase the estates of Kelly and Durris. He continued his chemical studies to the last, and did much to encourage the advancement of the science of chemistry. His bequests to the Andersonian University, and the almost romantic interest which he took in Dr. Livingstone, are well known. He died at an advanced age on 13th May, 1883.

In 1890 the property was acquired, through private purchase, by Henry Robert Baird, son of the late William Baird of Elie, in Fifeshire.

The mansion house, which is built entirely of granite, is partly old and partly modern. The date of the oldest portion cannot be ascertained with certainty, but it possibly is the whole, or a part, of a mansion which had been built after the burning of the castle by Montrose in 1645, as before described. The first portion of the modern house bears the date of 1824, and extensive additions were made to it between the years 1835 and 1838. The oldest portion is in the Scottish baronial style of architecture, and is connected with the new part by a spacious interjecting wing. This new part consists of a substantial square block, with a massive and lofty portico, and is surrounded by a low wall with ornamental iron railing. The mansion occupies a picturesque position over-

looking a precipitous bank of Durris dell, and commands an excellent view.

It seems probable that the site of the old castle was at a distance from the present mansion house, and on an eminence near the river, which for many centuries has been known as "the Castle Hill."

The policies, which extend to upwards of two hundred acres, have been laid out with great taste, and at much expense. The shrubs and ornamental trees are such as to at once attract the attention, and command the admiration even of those who are familiar with the grounds of some of the finest residential seats in the country.

The shootings and fishings are very valuable, and in connection with the latter it may be stated that a salmon hatchery has been erected, where upwards of eight hundred thousand fry are now annually hatched.

Upon the Castle Hill, close to the river and near to the bridge of Park, stands an octagonal tower, about eighty feet high, which was erected in 1825 by the Duke of Gordon, to commemorate his coming into possession of the estate as the heir of entail to the Earl of Peterborough after protracted litigation.

Till well into the present century, educational matters in the parish seem to have received little attention. At a visitation by the Presbytery on 20th June, 1677, it was reported "that as yet they had not a schoolmaster, but were to have one

shortlie, and that the setled maintainance was four bollis meall from the heritors and two peackis meall payable by everie tennant possessor of a pleugh of land within the parochin."<sup>1</sup> As recently as 1807, when the population numbered upwards of seven hundred, only twenty scholars were in attendance, fifteen of whom took English only, five Writing and Arithmetic, and two Latin.

The parish is somewhat meagre both in antiquarian remains and in traditional lore. There are, however, several tumuli or cairns of stones partly overgrown with heather and whins.<sup>2</sup> Others have entirely disappeared through the agricultural improvements of the present century. About 1832, a farmer, in trenching out the foundation of some old houses and dykes on his farm, found a number of small copper and silver coins, but none of them in a good state of preservation. From their general appearance they were supposed to be Danish.<sup>3</sup> About 1841, during the removal of stones for building purposes, several copper coins were found on the surface of the ground on Cairnmonearn. They were of the size and thickness of wafers, and appeared to be Scots pennies of the reign of Mary and Francis; having a compound F and M on one side, with a lion rampant and crown upon the other, and the motto *Veritas Vicit*, "truth hath con-

1. Presbytery Records.

2. Statistical Account of Kincardineshire, p. 172.

3. *Ibid.*

quered.”<sup>1</sup> At the 'Spital Croft, a reputed seat of the Knights Templars,\* lying to the south-east of the church, an old bronze pot was found some years ago, which, during Dr. Young's proprietorship, was carefully preserved at Durris House. It held about half-a-gallon, and was similar in form to the old-fashioned broth or *kail* pot of Scotland, having three feet to rest upon, and two ears for fixing the bow or handle to.<sup>2</sup>

After the great flood of 1829, the minister, the Rev. Robert Copland, in removing a cairn by the side of the Dee, came upon some bones, partly charred, and a number of sharp flint stones of different sizes. Subsequently, at a depth of about three feet, there was discovered a large trench, or grave, upwards of seven feet long, built with stones on the sides, and covered with three very large blocks. It contained human bones mixed with charcoal, and it was observed that part of a skull, contrary to the usual mode of interment, 'was placed at the east end of the grave.

In the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland" for the year 1880, it is stated

1. Anderson's *Black Book of Kincardineshire*.

2. Memorials, Angus and Mearns, I., p. 163.

\*The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem had a settlement at "the Castletown of Durris," and in 1540 Sir Walter Lyndesay, Lord of St. John's and Preceptor of Torphichen, granted a charter of the Templar land there to John Maky, son of William Maky, who had previously held it. The proprietor of Durris afterwards acquired the property.



that:—"On the Garrol farm, in the corner of a fir wood and near the main road, at the highest point as it looks towards Strachan, is a stone circle of sixty feet internal diameter . . . . Going down the valley westerly we come to Esslie farm, South. In the open plain, and in the midst of a field, is a compound circle of a remarkable character. It is slightly raised above the average of the ground, that is, the base appears as if raised a couple of feet. . . . The circle most prominent is the outer one of three, the smallest being much dilapidated, and separate from the other, *i.e.* not concentric. There is a trace of two lines of small stones coming from these two smaller circles and leading to each end of the lying stone, which is at the south. Outside the complete circle there is evidence of a fourth, from one standing-stone remaining." A space of seven or eight feet having been laid bare, "there were found certain black marks on the hard ground, and along with them small pieces of bone. The dark marks, in some places quite black, extended so as to be the length of a not tall human being in three cases; a fourth was uncertain. There seem to have been three or four bodies laid so as to form a circle, within which were no black marks or bones."

The chief tradition of the parish is one regarding a freebooter, called *Red Beard*, who is said to have lived along with his confederates in a cave on the hill of Craigbeg (now known as Craiglug), where a spring-well called Red Beard's Well perpetuates

his title. Beyond his systematic levying of black-mail, and his dexterity in cattle-lifting, there is nothing related of him.

“As in most parts of the country superstition had a firm footing in Durris in olden times ; and, according to story, it was fostered there by a pedagogue who played upon the credulity of his neighbours by occasionally personating his Satanic Majesty ! On one occasion he appeared among the rafters of the church at an evening meeting in the guise of a horned ox, with glaring eyes, and nearly terrified the people out of their wits. Mr. Reid, minister of Banchory-Ternan, being in the locality at the time, was asked to go to the kirk to *lay* Satan ; and it is said that, upon seeing the parson, who was remarkable for strength of body as well as of mind, ‘horney’ bawled out :—

‘What are you doin’ here, Rob Reid,  
Wi’ your hard heid?’

To which Mr. Reid naïvely replied :—

‘Whether my heid be hard or saft—  
Come you doon,  
Or I’ll crack your croon’.”<sup>1</sup>

A person who committed suicide by hanging is buried in the parish churchyard, but on the north side of the church, and, agreeably to an ancient belief, that it would be highly improper to take the

1. Jervise’s *Epitaphs*, I. p. 106.

corpse of a suicide through the gateway in the usual way, it was taken over the wall.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE HOGGS OF BLAIRYDRINE.

THE date when this family settled in the Parish of Durris is uncertain, but early in the fifteenth century they were on terms of intimacy and friendship with the Keiths of Inverugy and Cowie.

On 20th March, 1478-9, the Lords Auditors of Causes and Complaints decreed that Andrew Hogg should possess the lease and tack for life of the lands of Strabrok, granted to him by Sir William Keith, and by Sir Gilbert, his son.<sup>2</sup>

On 23rd June, 1562, "Monane Hog" is designed as "in Blerdryne,"<sup>3</sup> and it is said that he received a grant of the property through the Earl Marischal, "for having courteously entertained (when but a farmer there,) King James V., travelling through that country in disguise."<sup>4</sup>

The family speedily took up a prominent position in the district, for in certain proceedings which took place before the Privy Council in 1609, they are thus described "Miniane Hog of Bleridryne, Miniane and Johnne Hogis his son, William

1. Logan's *M.S. Notes*.

2. *Antiquities Aberdeen and Banff*, II., p. 401.

3. *Ibid*, IV., p. 598.

4. *Antiquities Aberdeen and Banff*, I., p. 638.

Hog in Woodend, James Hog in Knappach, William Hog his son, Archibald Hog in Balbrydie, and Andrew Hog in Boig.”<sup>1</sup> These parties had been on unfriendly terms with Thomas Fraser in “Pitcowteis,” against whom, in February, 1606-7, it was complained that “on 12th August last, he and his accomplices armed with jacks, spears, swords, and gauntlets, and also with hagbuts and pistolets, came to Hog’s dwelling-house of Blarydryne at night and ‘dernit’ themselves all that night about his house, on purpose to slay him.”<sup>2</sup>

Monan Hog, Junior, married Jean Lindsay, and it was probably a son who married Ann Douglass, daughter to John Douglass of Tilwhilly. Certain it is that the son of the latter couple, James Hogg, who married “Margaret Skene, the only daughter of Robert Skene of Raemore,” and thus succeeded to that estate, sold the lands of Blairydrine. He was born in 1661, and died in 1706, as appears from the inscription on his tombstone in the churchyard of Banchory-Ternan, on which are cut the Hogg armorial bearings impaled with those of Skene.

One of the descendants of the family was Rev. Dr. James Hogg, of Skene, who died in November, 1823, aged seventy-two years. Another descendant was James Hogg, schoolmaster of Banchory-Devenick, 1726-71, whose son, George Hogg, was a merchant in Aberdeen, and afterwards became

1. Privy Council Register, VII., p. 319.

2. *Ibid.*

proprietor of the estate of Shannaburn in Maryculter parish. He built a school in Banchory-Devenick which went by the name of *Hogg's School*, and besides leaving a considerable sum for its support, he bequeathed One thousand pounds for educational purposes in Aberdeen.

Another descendant, who had been in very humble circumstances in early youth, tending cattle on the hill of Cairnshea, went to London and entered into mercantile business there. He was thus enabled, in 1787, to leave to his native parish of Durris the sum of Five hundred pounds in the three per cent. Consols, the annual income from which he directed should be applied thus :—" Five pounds to the schoolmaster; One pound to the kirk-session for their trouble in managing the fund; Ten shillings to the session-clerk for keeping the books; Ten shillings to the herds around the hill of Cairnshea, to make a midsummer fire on that hill, and the balance—about Nine pounds—to poor householders not on the poor's roll."<sup>1</sup> The conditions attaching to this peculiar bequest are still carefully carried out, the kindling of the bonfire on midsummer night affording much amusement to the youths of the district.

1. Statistical Account of Kincardineshire, p. 177.

PARISH CHURCH.

(*St. Congal, Abbot.*)

THE Church, which is rated in the Old Taxation at Ten merks, was for long a rectory in the Diocese of St. Andrews.<sup>1</sup> After the Reformation it was attached to the Presbytery of Fordoun; but in 1717 it was annexed to that of Aberdeen, in which it still is.<sup>2</sup>

The first parish church must have been erected at a very early period, as it is recorded in the Minutes of Visitations by the Presbytery of the Mearns, of date 20th June, 1677, that the fabric was "under great decay." The minister of the period, Rev. John Reid, was then instructed to approach the heritors on the subject, and nine years later it was reported to the Presbytery "that a new manse and church had been built by the heritors," and that the latter was to be maintained by them. Regarding this church, which was superseded by the present erection in 1822, an interesting narrative is given in Logan's *MS. Notes on Churches*, preserved in the Advocates' Library, Aberdeen. After a brief reference to the origin of the name, the author proceeds:—"The Kirk of Durris is one of the few remaining old structures—long and narrow. On two

of the peat stones are the letters

S
A F

D
V C

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 104.

2. Presbytery Records.

and on another the date 1587, which shows that the church was either built or repaired by Sir A. Fraser, to whom the estate belonged. Upon the lintel of the eastmost window are the words MEMENTO MORI.

All the windows and doors, square outside, are circular-headed and splayed inside, except the small one over the central door. The north wall is strengthened by massy inclined buttresses, and the external dimensions are 84 feet by 23. Inside it is 78—3 by 18—3.

The east-end, which is separated from the part appropriated for worship by a wooden partition, and is called an aisle, was the burial-place of the ancient family of Fraser, long the possessors of Durris. In the north wall is a monument commemorating some of these lairds, before which is a raised pavement. On the wall above are suspended the remains of a funereal achievement,\* formed of woollen cloth. There is also preserved here part of the family pew, very well carved.

In each end is a gallery lighted by a gable window. Access to the western is obtained by a

\*A "funeral achievement," or hatchment, was the term applied to the coat of arms of a deceased person, usually placed on the front of a house, in a church, or on a hearse at funerals, by which the fact of the death and the rank of the deceased might be known; the whole being distinguished in such a manner as to indicate whether the deceased person was male or female, married or unmarried, &c. The one here referred to had, in all likelihood, consisted of the arms of the Frasers of Durris.

stone stair outside ; to the eastern by a wooden staircase carried up in the Fraser's aisle.

The church was 'pointed' in 1768, since which time it has been 'harled.' The belfry with a harp, perhaps in allusion to the psalmist praising the Lord with that instrument, is curious.

There is an inscription on the pediment.

An article which was used for holding the sand-glass is preserved in the church. It is formed [                      ] of iron and has been carefully tinned."

In 1609 the Elders were "Thomas Fraser of Durris, Robert Fraser, his brother, Thomas Fraser in Petcutenis, James Fraser, Alexander Robertson, Adam Ramsay, Johne Scrogy, Alexander Myln in Caladrum, Alexander Myln in Maines of Durris, Alexander Doiglas in Lochtown, Alexander Naughtie, Archibald Dunbar, Thomas Hoig, Gilbert Collie, and Thomas Watson." <sup>1</sup>

In 1677 it was reported to the Presbytery that there was no "mortified money belonging to the church for pious uses," and that the only "utensils and vessels dedicated for the administration of the Lord's Supper and Baptism" were "two cups of tinne, and one basin of tinne."<sup>2</sup>

In the View of the Diocese of Aberdeen it is stated that "Durris Church has two silver chalices and one silver patten, gifted by Mr. Fraser, late

1. Presbytery Records.

2. Register of Visitations.



Schoolmaster there." These communion utensils, which are still in use, bear the following inscription:—

GIVEN TO THE CHURCH OF DURRIS BY MR.  
THO FRAISER, CHAPLINE AND JUDGE ADVOCAT  
ABOARD THE ENGLISH ADMIRALL.  
OBIT IN THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTERR YE 19 OF  
FEBY 1694.

There are also two electro-plated communion flagons used, bearing the inscription:—

DURRIS, 1879.

As already stated, the present church was erected in 1822, and was opened for divine service on 17th November of that year.<sup>1</sup> It is seated for 550 worshippers, and is a plain structure, but pleasantly situated.

The bell bears the inscription:—

IOHN MOWAT. OLD ABD; FE 1765  
IN USUM ECCLESIAE DE DURRIS  
SABATA PANGO, FUNERA PLANGO

[John Mowat, Old Aberdeen, made me in 1765, for the use of the church of Durris. Sabbaths I proclaim, funerals I toll.]

#### MINISTERS.

. . . . .

1420. Hugh Wells, Rector. He also acted as

1. Session Records.

Vicar of Nigg, but was excommunicated by the Bishop for seizing, as belonging to his vicarage, the tithe of fish caught in the river Dee. In 1430, on acknowledging his fault, he was absolved and reinstated.<sup>1</sup>

. . . . .

1480. John Kyd, Vicar.<sup>2</sup>

1487. William Crychtoune, Vicar.<sup>3</sup>

1513. Alexander Galloway, Prebendary.<sup>4</sup>

1568. George Fraser, Minister.<sup>5</sup> He entered at Lammas, and held a salary of £8. 6s. 8d. It is understood that he was a relative of the Frasers of Durris.

1574. Archibald Hogg, Minister. He was possibly a relative of the Hoggs of Blairydrine.<sup>6</sup>

1595. James Irving or Irvine, son of Alexander Irving of Beltie, admitted during this year. In 1599, he had "Kinarny" also in charge.<sup>7</sup>

1601. Alexander Youngson, translated from Skene, and admitted this year. The congregation complained to the Presbytery that he was non-resident with them, and only came and preached on alternate Sundays. Of date 15th January, 1602, he was ordained to "mak his residence at the kirk

1. Macfarlane's Transcript, p. 32.

2. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 361.

3. Ibid.

4. *Fasti Aberdonenses*, p. 72.

5. Collections, *Aberdeen and Banff*, p. 226.

6. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 104, and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 498.

7. Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 498.

at Witsondaye." His stipend was £11. 2s. 2½d. sterling.<sup>1</sup>

16— William Youngson, Minister.

1655. William Reid. He was elected one of the Ministers of Edinburgh in 1662, but declined acceptance.

1676. John Reid, formerly Schoolmaster of Banchory-Ternan, appointed successor. He took an active part in fomenting the rebellion of 1715, for which, and for contumacy, he was deposed in the following year. He died prior to 2nd April, 1728.<sup>2</sup>

1717. Robert Melvill, son of the Rev. Francis Melvill, Minister of Arbuthnott, thereafter one of the Ministers of Aberdeen, was licensed by the Aberdeen Presbytery in June, 1716, and was ordained 31st January following. He acted as Clerk to the Presbytery, and, in his absence, on 28th February, 1747, the manse was broken into by five notorious robbers, led by James Davidson,\* who carried off

1. Presbytery Records, &c.

2. Scott's *Fasts*, VI., p. 499, and Register of Visitations of Presbytery.

\*The career of this notorious robber, who was a native of Brechin, deserves notice. While a youth he became a private soldier, but deserting, joined the rebel army of Prince Charles. After Culloden he seems to have taken to thieving on an extensive scale, manses and school-houses receiving a special share of attention. In the beginning of February, 1747, he and his confederates robbed the Manse of Kinnell of Twenty-four pounds, the Manse of Farnell of Ten pounds and the Minister's watch, and the House of Kinnaird of silver and other articles to the value of

many valuable effects, including Session and Presbytery records. For this, and other grave offences, Davidson was afterwards executed and hung in chains. Mr. Melvill, who died on 29th May, 1758, was twice married:—first, to Isabella Fordyce, daughter of Provost George Fordyce, of Aberdeen, who died in 1719, and secondly to Janet Greig, who died in 1752. Two sons, Francis and John, were the founders of a great mercantile firm in Amsterdam.<sup>1</sup>

1759. Alexander Leslie, son of James Leslie,

1. Dingwall Fordyce, I., p. 1015, Black Calendar of Aberdeen, Presbytery and Session Records.

Fifteen pounds. These robberies were the work of one night. On the following day the Manse of Fettercairn was visited, but the Minister defended it gallantly and for some time kept Davidson a prisoner, but he was released by his associates, who terminated the exploits of the day by burning the school-house. On the 28th of the same month the Manse of Durris was broken into and everything valuable carried off. The Minister at the time was unfortunately from home, otherwise the depredators would have had some trouble with him, as he was a very powerful man. They next robbed Mr. Harper, the Schoolmaster of Durris, of Thirty-five pounds. Other thefts followed, in the perpetration of one of which Davidson was apprehended. The sentence that he should be "executed and thereafter hung in chains" seems to have been not uncommon in the case of great robbers. His exploits attracted much attention at the time, and the "*Aberdeen Journal*," in noticing the apprehension, calls him "the famous Mr. Davidson." It may be of interest to add that one of the volumes stolen out of Durris Manse was "*Ye Presbytrie Buik of Aberdeen begun ye 20 day of October 1598 and continued to 14 June 1610.*" The book ultimately fell into the hands of the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh, and was carefully preserved in their Library till June, 1891, when it was delivered up to its original owners, the Presbytery of Aberdeen.

Minister of St. Fergus, licensed by the Presbytery of Deer, was ordained on 5th April. He was translated to Fordoun on 10th October, 1771, and died there, 15th September, 1807, in his 74th year.<sup>1</sup>

1772. William Strachan, ordained on 9th April.<sup>2</sup>

1823. Robert Copland, ordained by the Presbytery of Fordyce, 22nd July, 1814, as a Missionary at Enzie, was inducted at Durris on 30th October. He died, 3rd July, 1860, in his 81st year.<sup>3</sup>

1858. James Duirs, ordained assistant and successor to Mr. Copland, on 27th July, 1858.

1878. Charles John Watt, ordained assistant and successor to Mr. Duirs, on 11th April. He was translated to Polwarth in the Presbytery of Duns, and inducted there on 21st March, 1882.<sup>4</sup>

1883. Robert Spark, ordained assistant and successor to Mr. Duirs, on 18th January.<sup>5</sup>

#### ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

THE Session records, which make up five volumes, and are in the custody of the Session-Clerk, commence in the year 1717, but they contain little but narratives of discipline, and the business which ordinarily falls to kirk-sessions to transact. On 20th

1. Separate Register of Presbytery and Session Records.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Separate Register of Presbytery and Scott's *Fasti*, VI. p. 499.

4. Separate Register of Presbytery.

5. *Ibid.*

October, 1742, the funds at the disposal of the Session were so meagre that the Clerk's annual salary was reduced from Sixteen pounds Scots to Ten merks. On 4th January, 1784, the collection amounted to Five pence. The patriotic and war-like spirit of the parishioners is shown by the entry of 28th July, 1803 :—"113 men of the parish met and enrolled themselves to march and oppose the French should they dare to land on this coast."

While the Session records are thus barren in interesting matter, the Minutes of Presbytery show that several curious cases had to be dealt with. On 15th January, 1612, "Alexander Gordon ordained by the Presbytery under the pain of excommunicatione to pay to the collector of the penalties the soume of fyve merkis for the abuseing of James Milne within the kirk of Durris, in tyme of divine service, and furer, to sett down befor the pulpett efter the sermone, befor blessing be endit, and thair confesse his offense to God and forgiveness of the said James to ask ; and the said James to humell himselff on his knees, . . ." On 3rd July, 1607, it was "statute and ordanit that 'na idill persoun be sufferrit, bot all be compellit to enter and to abides in service,' and that the order may be effectual ordained 'that nane recept nor interteaine sic, bot hauld thame odious as infidelis, and all breaking the rule to pay forty shillings of penalty.'" On the 24th September, 1609, on the occasion of the visit of the Presbytery to Durris, the minister, Mr. Alexander Youngson, "was removed and censurit," but

D

was "weill commendit, both by the 'elderis and parochineris, praising God for him.'" On the same occasion, the Presbytery ordained to be put into execution the acts "aganis contravenaris," . . . and among "the rest aganis sleparis in the kirk in tyme of diuine seruice."

## DRUMOAK.

THIS important agricultural parish, which is situated on the banks of the Dee, measures on the average four miles in length by two in breadth. In the end of the last century it was invariably called *Dalmaik*,<sup>1</sup> and as early as 1157 it was written *Dulmayok*.<sup>2</sup> In 1407 it was designed *Drumoak*,<sup>3</sup> which is now its invariable name.

Agriculture, with certain limitations, has all along been the chief employment of the inhabitants. On the subject the writer of the Old Statistical Account says:—"No wheat sown in the parish, and but little artificial grasses or turnips. The crops consist chiefly of barley oats. There are about two thousand sheep, a great deal of the soil being fit only for sheep pasture. Oxen are less employed than formerly. Men servants receive Five pounds per annum of wages, women about Two pounds, labourers in husbandry one shilling per day, or sixpence and their victuals. Peats chiefly used for fuel. Best arable land rented at fifteen shillings an acre. Air dry and very healthy."<sup>4</sup> Within the last sixty years enormous improvements have been effected, both in the

1. Old Statistical Account of Scotland, III., p. 315.

2. Chartulary of See of Aberdeen, p. 43.

3. Regist. Capellanorum, p. 66.

4. Statistical Account of Scotland, III., p. 317.



cultivation of the soil and in the raising of crops and cattle, and, generally speaking, farming may be said to be as far advanced in this parish as in any in Aberdeenshire. The light character of the soil, however, prevents the growing of heavy crops.

The parish is somewhat deficient both in traditions and in prehistoric remains. Of the latter the most interesting is the fragment of a sculptured stone, with the sceptre, mirror and comb ornaments, which is now erected upon a knoll within the policies of Park House. Its original situation was on the west end of the Keith's moor, not far from the spot where, in times of baronial jurisdiction, the gallows stood ; but it can scarcely be supposed to have had any connection with this circumstance, and must be of a much earlier date than the defeat of the Keiths by the Irvines, which gave to the scene of the battle the name of "the Keith's Muir." The farm in which this part of the moor was included, went by the name of Gallowburn, but it is now called Bakebare. The stone was removed by workmen, who intended to build it into the walls of Park House, but the proprietor happily succeeded in preventing its destruction, although not its serious defacement. In the Hawk-hillock, within the policies of Park, three stone coffins were unearthed and disclosed an urn and some ashes, but they were closed up again. Arrow heads have occasionally been picked up, and, early in the present century, a few silver coins were discovered on the farm of Dalmaik. In the Red

Moss of Crathes also silver coins of the Roman empire have been found, which strengthens the theory that the Romans, under Agricola, were in the district. Some of these coins were presented to Blairs College by Sir James H. Burnett, and are still preserved there.

Superstitious customs were frequently observed in connection with deaths and burials. As late as 1670, when the Laird of Drum's daughter was buried in Aberdeen, ten o'clock at night was the hour selected, and such superstitious ceremonies were performed that a quarrel arose and two persons were wounded. To put an end to such unseemly bickerings, the Council subsequently ordained that all interments should take place between sunrise and sunset.

The inscriptions upon the tombstones in the churchyard shew that many of the parishioners reached advanced ages. That upon David Stephen's, weaver in Easter Cairnie, bears that he died upon 22nd November, 1809, aged 89, and that his wife, Margaret Kennedy, died four years later, also aged 89. The inscription concluded with the rhyme:—

In Carnie sure did David die,  
We hope his soul's in Heaven high ;  
The body lies beneath this stone,  
To moulder there both skin and bone.  
[It was his blessed will to wear  
A coat without a seam,  
Which fitted well in every part,  
Wove in a wyver's leem.]

According to the "Deeside Guide" the last four lines were chiselled out by order of the late Rev. Dr. Fraser. Another shews that John Collie, in Barresgate of Drum, died 24th June, 1832, in his 90th year.

The "Aberdeen Journal" obituary columns bear that Robert Guthrie, residenter in the parish, died on 24th May, 1773, aged 103.

The above reference to the churchyard of Drumoak suggests a story that illustrates very vividly the stirring and horrible times of the "resurrectionists." There lies here a body which was at one time the occasion of a partly gruesome and partly ludicrous episode.

Alexander Ross, better known by the nickname of *Shotty*, was one of those strange freaks of nature which apparently were more frequently met with in earlier times than they are now. His body was of normal size and length, but his legs were short, out of all proportion to the rest of his frame. Owing to his possessing many of the mental peculiarities—such as wonderful self-conceit, and overmastering sense of self-importance—which nature generally joins with her physical vagaries, he was well-known in the parish and beyond it. All the circumstances of his life, nature, frame, and position, made him an object of talk to the country people, and an object of a more mercenary and fearful nature to the gentlemen who had to prepare themselves for the treatment of the living body by dissecting the dead. When, therefore, poor *Shotty*

died, there were grim rumours that attempts would be made to abstract his strangely proportioned remains from their last resting place, and that he who had suffered at the hands of nature in life, would likely suffer at the hands of budding doctors in death. These rumours and suspicions were not short of the truth. On the night after the interment a farmer named Collie, who resided on the borders of Drumoak and Peterculter parishes, observed six gentlemen making their way westwards, and at once suspected that their object might be to "resurrect" old *Shotty*. His suspicion was further confirmed on the following evening by seeing the same six persons pass up, this time accompanied by a horse and gig—a thing rarely to be seen, and sure to attract attention in those days when such vehicles were so few and uncommon. Any doubt he may have had as to their errand was altogether dispelled by seeing them pass down again just within a time that would have allowed of their visiting the churchyard of Drumoak and returning to that point. Thoroughly determined to thwart their nefarious designs, he hastened with such speed as his great age rendered possible to the neighbouring village of Peterculter, and there told his tale to the man that would most likely be of service in a case requiring prodigious strength and dauntless courage. There could be no doubt as to the superior qualifications in these respects of Charles Edward, the village blacksmith, as will readily be admitted by those who know or have seen his son

and successor in the office at the present time. Mr. Collie explained to Charles that owing to the infirmities of age he himself could not give chase, but offered the smith one of his swiftest horses if he would follow, and, if possible, rescue from the medical gentlemen the body of the deformed tailor. The blacksmith, who never wore cap or covering on his head, without coat or vest, without removing his apron or taking down his upturned shirt sleeves that exposed a grimy arm that even any blacksmith might have envied, vaulted on to the bare back of Mr. Collie's horse and set off in hot pursuit. The smith's charger required no prompting to show his paces, for the flapping of the apron on his back alarmed him, and he bolted with the speed of lightning, the smith with his towsey hair flying in the wind, his apron spread to the breeze like the sail of a boat, being carried along the road to Aberdeen at break-neck speed. Near Stonegavel he came upon the objects of his hunt, four of whom were walking in the rear, while two were sitting in the gig with the body of *Shotty* in a sack on the floor. The smith's horse having had his will of racing was nothing loth to obey the order to slacken pace, when the smith, keeping alongside the gig, engaged in conversation with the occupants and their companions, till he heard the sound of another horseman who had followed on the alarm being raised throughout the parishes. At that moment the smith threw the reins upon his horse's neck, and jumping down seized the reins of the horse in the

gig, and demanded of the guardians of their prize, "What have you got in that sack?"

The great size and evident strength, the strange garb of the questioner, his smoke-blackened face furrowed with marks of perspiration, seemed to impress the pedestrian part of the company at least with the notion that the smith had come from warmer quarters than the smithy of Culter, and they at once bolted into the adjoining wood. The smith, never afraid of anything, and least of all when his foes were reduced to only two, boldly proceeded to the gig, took out his large clasp knife and, ripping open the sack, exposed to view the bald head of *Shotty* Ross. The hearts of the two remaining medicals now utterly failed them, and they too sought safety in ignominious and hasty flight, leaving the smith and his companion in possession of the horse and the gig with its lifeless occupant. The victors returned to Drumoak, where they were met by a triumphal procession composed of the inhabitants of the two parishes through which the rumour of the adventure had spread like wildfire. The horse and gig were afterwards claimed by a horse-hirer from Aberdeen, who had, without knowing the purpose, hired them to this party. The remains of *Shotty* were left in the church of Drumoak until a coffin was prepared for them, and were then placed in a grave so constructed alongside a dug grave, as to be under the solid ground, where no "resurrection" apparatus could reach them—a monument, at once, of the pluck, courage, and strength of the portly

blacksmith, and of those days, happily gone, when the sorrows of bereaved friends were quickened by the fear of the mutilation and dishonour of the crumbling frames that had once enshrined the spirits of their beloved.

An old female residenter relates that in her youth she used frequently to assist in carrying the kegs or bladders of smuggled whisky to Aberdeen. On one occasion a farm at which she was in service was visited by two excise officers, one of whom was the famous Malcolm Gillespie of Skene. All the smuggling appliances had been carefully concealed, but the quantity of malt in the barn happened to be in excess of that allowed by Government. It became necessary, therefore, to put away this excess quantity, so, while the officers were busily searching the far end of the dwelling house, the quick-witted farmer contrived to get a sackful of the contraband malt brought into the room where his wife and her newly born baby were in bed. In such an emergency the baby had to give way temporarily, and the bag with its contents was laid in the bed beside the mother. The officers continued the search, and coming upon nothing suspicious, ultimately took their departure, leaving the clever farmer to enjoy with his friends the trick which had been so skilfully played upon the hated gaugers.

## ESTATE OF DRUM.

THE Estate of Drum, which extends to nearly one half of the parish of Drumoak, was in the times of the early Scottish Kings part of a royal hunting forest. The office of royal forester of Drum was held by the Wauchopes of Culter prior to 1306, but in that year the appointment was recalled and conferred upon Alexander de Burnard,<sup>1</sup> ancestor of the Burnetts of Crathes.

At this time Robert the Bruce, actively engaged in his fierce struggle for the freedom of Scotland, was retreating before Edward I., and came to Bonshaw in Dumfriesshire, where he for some time found shelter and protection in the friendly residence of William de Irwine or Irvine, the proprietor. King Robert being struck by the manly bearing and high spirited character of William Irvine, son of this laird, selected him to act as his armour-bearer and secretary. The youth, having accompanied the King in his various wanderings, and shared in his sufferings and dangers, was, after the crowning victory of Bannockburn, rewarded for his fidelity and service with a grant of the land and forest of Drum. The grant was made by royal charter, dated at Berwick, 1st February, 1323. Besides this, and other tokens of the king's favour, Irvine had conferred on him the

1. Catalogue *Archaeological Museum Edinburgh*, 1856, pp. 118-19.



device which the king had borne as Earl of Carrick, viz, :—three branches of holly leaves, supported by two savages, wreathed, with the motto "*Sub sole, sub umbra, virens.*" The motto was given to show that Irvine had faithfully adhered to the king, both in prosperity and adversity.<sup>1</sup>

Some time after this a deadly feud would appear to have broken out between the Keiths of Dunnottar, hereditary Earls Marischal of Scotland, and the Irvine family. Tradition has it that a fierce engagement between the families and their respective followers took place at a spot in the parish on the north bank of the Dee, which is still known by the name of the "Keith's Muir." Victory declared for the Irvines, who drove their enemies across the river at a deep and rocky part of its channel, which still bears the title of the "Keith's Pot," where a rock, which occasionally appears a few inches above the water, on which it is said one of the fugitives was killed while taking temporary refuge, retains the name of the "Keith's Stone." Another traditionary account represents that the youth who was killed in this way was not flying from a battle, but from a love meeting with one of the young ladies of Drum. Be that as it may, the feud between the two families raged so fiercely that the States of the Kingdom at length interposed, and induced Alexander Irvine, the third in descent, to marry Elizabeth Keith, daughter of Sir Robert

1. MacKenzie's *Heraldry*.

Keith, Marischal of Scotland. Irvine so far tempered his resentment with that spirit of loyalty which has always distinguished the family as to enter into the suggested alliance, to the extent of submitting to the celebration of the marriage ceremony, and this merely formal union had the desired effect, not only of terminating the differences between the two families, but of binding them together in long unbroken bonds of friendship.<sup>1</sup> But this powerful proprietor won laurels when opposed by more formidable foes than the Keiths. Being in France in 1408, he was induced to join the Earl of Mar in helping John of Bavaria, the secular bishop-elect of Liege, to get possession of his See against the opposition of his rebellious subjects. In the siege and conflicts which followed, the command of the van was assigned to the Earl of Mar; and on the eve of a great battle Irvine and several of the Scottish leaders were knighted.<sup>2</sup> In 1411 Irvine, being then in Scotland, took up arms against Donald, Lord of the Isles. That chieftain laid claim to the Earldom of Ross, but the Regent Albany decided against him, whereupon he raised an army of ten thousand men and overran the fertile provinces of Moray and Strathbogie—breaking into and laying waste the Garioch district, the greater part of which belonged to the Earl of Mar, who rapidly mustered an army, in which a

1. Statistical Account of Aberdeenshire, p. 881.

2. Davidson's *Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch*, p. 87.

command was at once given to his old friend and ally the Laird of Drum.

A severe engagement took place, on 24th July, 1411, at Harlaw, near Inverurie, and during the heat of it, Hector, the chief of the clan Maclean, recognizing the rank of Irvine by the armorial bearings emblazoned on his shield, engaged him in single combat which was fought with such sanguinary fierceness that both combatants were slain. Drum was buried in the field of battle by his followers, who raised a cairn of remembrance over his grave; and the following stanza, in the popular ballad of the "Battle of Harlaw," records at once his gallantry, and the high esteem with which his countrymen regarded him:—

"Gude Sir Alexander Irvine,  
The much renounit Laird of Drum:  
None in his dais wer better sene,  
Quhen thai wer semblit all and som.  
To praise him we sud not be dumm,  
For valour, wit, and worthiness;  
To end his dais he ther did cum,  
Quhois ransom is remedyles."

It is said that when hastening to Harlaw, at the head of his vassals, and in company with his brother Robert, he halted upon the hill of Auchronie, in the parish of Skene, from the summit of which the house of Drum was visible on the one hand, and the field of battle on the other, and there, seated upon a stone, which still bears the appella-

tion of "Drum's Stone," gave important directions as to his affairs, and advised his brother, if he himself should be slain, to marry his sister-in-law on his return, with whom, as he assured him, he had never consummated his marriage. Robert, having escaped the slaughter, married the lady according to the advice, and, upon succeeding to the estate, changed his christian name to Alexander, for which it was alleged there was a precedent in the case of Robert III.<sup>1</sup> As a marriage dowry he got with his wife the lands of Strachan in Kincardineshire. He was one of the Commissioners deputed by the States of Scotland to go to London in 1423, to negotiate with the English Government for the ransom of James I., who had for long been a captive in England. The liberation having been effected, Irvine received the honour of knighthood from that Monarch in 1424. The unfortunate King was cruelly murdered while holding Christmas at Perth, and during the anarchy and confusion which followed the event, the inhabitants of Aberdeen, relying upon the friendship and good faith of the Drum family, solicited the services of Sir Alexander Irvine for the protection and defence of the city. In 1440, therefore, he was, by the selection and vote of the burgesses, elected Captain and Governor of the burgh, which appointment invested him with authority in the town superior to that of the Provost. This responsible and onerous situ-

1. Burke's *Landed Gentry*, p. 614.

ation was held by Sir Alexander for two years, and there is no instance upon record of any other individual having obtained a like distinction ; when the Earl of Huntly in the next century became the chief magistrate, it was by the title of Provost.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Alexander's love for the church was manifested by his founding, in 1456, the chantry of St. Ninian, the Confessor, within the church of St. Nicholas, and his liberality in granting a perpetual annuity of Ten merks from his lands for the support of the officiating chaplain. His second son, to whom he gave a grant of the lands of Whiteriggs and Redmyres, distinguished himself so highly at the battle of Brechin, in 1452, that he subsequently received from the Marquis of Huntly, under whose flag he served, the lands of Beltie in the parish of Kincardine O'Neil, as a reward for his services.

In 1470, and during several subsequent years, Alexander Irvine of Drum held the office of Sheriff Depute of Aberdeen. He appears to have been of a somewhat turbulent disposition, and in consequence to have got involved in several quarrels. In 1471 he was summoned by "Walter Lindsay of Bewfort for convening the lieges to the number of sixty persons in arms," and also for "commyng vpon the said Walter vnder silence of nycht quhan he was in his bed at mydnycht." Irvine, failing to appear, was ordered to "enter his persone in warde within the Castel of Berwic," and there to remain

1. Castles of Aberdeenshire, p. 39.

till "fred be our Souerane Lord." At the same time he was "depriuit for euer fra the office of deput schireffschip,"<sup>1</sup> but the latter sentence was afterwards reversed. The fierce temper of this laird, however, led him into further difficulties as evidenced by the remission granted to him and his associates by James III. in 1487, "for the slaughter at the Brig of Balgowny of Alexander Fresare and George Tailzour, and for the dismembering and mutilation, in the Place of Drum, of Sir Edward Makdowell, Chaplain."<sup>2</sup> Fraser and Taylor were dependants of the Frasers of Philorth, and met their death in a skirmish which took place with Irvine and his confederates, who seem to have been lying in wait for them at the Bridge of Don, as they and their master, Sir Alexander Fraser, in company with his son, passed to or from Aberdeen. Notwithstanding the remission granted by the King for the offence, the chief aggressor was pressed to make compensation, and nine years later he paid One hundred merks in the name of "kin-boot."<sup>3</sup>

He married Nannys Menzies of the Pitfodels family, by whom he had at least three sons and one daughter. In 1493, his wife being then dead, he made provision for these children "to sustain them at the scolis," as well as during the rest of their lives as follows:—"to David, his guidis beand

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, I., pp. 278-9.

2. *Ibid*, III., pp. 298-99.

3. *Ibid*, p. 304.

within the lands of Coule, that is to say XX tine of oxen and five chalder of malt fermes yerlie . . . and thre hundredth wederis beand within the Fortrie in Buchan . . . :— to Alexander, his guidis beand in Kinquharroquhe, that is to say the corn, thirty four oxin, and three hundred youis . . . :— to John, his guidis corne, oxin, and eight score youis, within the Cragtoun . . . :— to Agnes his dochter, his guidis corne, oxin, and eight score youis being in Dalmayok, togidder with twenty four ky and ane bull in Collangy to opbring her and mary her.”<sup>1</sup>

At the accession of James V. to the Scottish throne, after the disastrous battle of Flodden, we find the family still powerful, and supporting the honourable reputation it had previously acquired. By deed of gift, dated 3rd December, 1527, James conferred upon the eldest son and heir of the then deceased Alexander Irvine of Drum, a gift of non-entry to the lands of Forglen. The deed, which is still extant, purports to be bestowed “on account of the good and thankful service done to the king by Alexander Irvine of Forglen, his said deceased father and friends in searching, taking, and bringing of the rebels, thieves, reivers, sorners, and murderers to justice, and in part recompense of their great labours and expenses sustained thairthrow.”<sup>2</sup>

The young laird referred to played a con-

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, III., pp. 301-302.

2. *Ibid*, pp. 573-74.

spicuous part in the stirring events which occurred during the minority of the unfortunate Mary Stuart, and in September, 1547, marched with the citizens of Aberdeen to swell the Scottish army, which had been rapidly mustered to repel the English invasion under Protector Somerset. A piece of ordnance, known as "the great falcon," was supplied from Drum and carried with the army. Irvine was present at the disastrous battle of Pinkie, where he was numbered among the slain.

His son succeeded to the estates on the death of his grandfather, and married Lady Elizabeth Keith, daughter of the Earl Marischal, by whom he had a large family. Their eldest son, who acquired the lands in 1583, distinguished himself as a patron of learning and a benefactor to the poor. He made certain monetary advances to James VI., for which he received that King's holograph bond, dated 27th November, 1587. He was held in such high esteem in Aberdeen that, in 1596, his servant, Stevin Smyth, was admitted a Burgess of Guild of that city "vpon consideratioun, that the said Laird off Drum hes stand at all tymes guid freynd and weilwelar of the burght."<sup>1</sup> He married Lady Marion Douglas, daughter of the Earl of Buchan, and the following extract from the Privy Council Register, not only shows the risk their two sons ran of being murdered, but gives general insight into the lawless and defiant spirit of those times :—

"Upon 15th October, 1607, Alexander Irwing of

1. *Miscellany New Spalding Club*, p. 89.



Drum and Mr. Robet Irwing of Moncoffer complained to the Privy Council as follows:—Upon 4th September last, Johnne Mortymer, called Johnne the Baron, Patrik Forbes, son of Johnne in Mylnebowy, Duncane Forbes, stabler in Abirdene, Johnne Bowis, servitor to Johnne Forbes, called of Corsindae, Andro Forbes, glasswright in Abirdene, with others, to the number of threescore persons, all armed with swords, halberts, secrets, plaitsleeves, and with hagbuts and pistolets, prohibited to be worn, came to the Black Friar Croft, beside the kirk style of Abirdene, and there ‘maist feirsleie’ set upoun the said Mr. Robert, while he was executing his Majesty’s commission, directed to the Laird of Drum, for apprehending certain murderers and malefactors, and would have slain him but for Providence and his own better defence. Immediately thereafter, the said persons went to the grammar school of Abirdene, where they expected to find and intended to kill, Alexander and Robert Irwingis, sons of the Laird of Drum, boys of the ages of eleven and thirteen years respectively, ‘and with drawin swordis, durkis, and daigaris barbarouslie stoggit the daskis of the said scoole, presentet bendit pistolletes to the maister thairof, urging him to schaw unto thame quhair the saidis tua bairnes wer: lyke as the said maister of the scoole eschaipit frome thame verie hardlie with his lyff.” . . . The defenders not compearing were ordered to be put to the horn,<sup>1</sup> but being

1. Privy Council Register, VII., p. 449.

afterwards discovered were brought to trial. Powerful influence was used in their favour, and they got off with a very light sentence of imprisonment. The King in his indignation at the miscarriage of justice, sent a special letter to the Privy Council expressing "much mervell how this grosse oversight" had "bene committet," and ordering the whole circumstances of the case to be certified to him "with speede."<sup>1</sup>

In February, 1622, Irvine had a special licence granted him by the lords of the secret council that he, his wife, and such as might be in company with them at table, could "eit and feid vpoun fleshes in the forbidden tyme of Lentroun and siclyk vpoun Wednisdayis Frydayis and Seterdayes for the space of ane yeir . . . without paine cryme, skaithe or daunger."<sup>2</sup> We are told that he "liv'd decently; was a plain man, nicknamed *Little Breeches*, and increased in wealth."<sup>3</sup> In 1629, he mortified Ten thousand pounds scots for the maintenance of four bursars in philosophy and two in divinity at Marischal College, and four at the Grammar School, Aberdeen, vesting the right of presentation to these bursaries upon his successor in the estate of Drum. He also mortified thirty-two bolls of meal to certain persons on his property in Drumoak, viz.:—twelve to poor scholars, eight to the parochial schoolmaster for teaching them, and

1. Privy Council Register, VII., p. 530.

2. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, vol. III., p. 309.

3. *Ibid*, I., p. 41.

twelve to decayed tenants, all of which are divided annually at the sight of the kirk-session. In the following year he mortified Four hundred merks scots to the Guild Brethren's Hospital of Aberdeen, and Six hundred merks scots were also at the same time set apart for the upkeep of Drum's Aisle. Two years later his lady, emulating the example of her husband, mortified Three thousand merks to endow an hospital for the widows and aged daughters of decayed burgesses of Aberdeen.

The next laird in succession was Sir Alexander Irvine, son of the benevolent couple just mentioned, who married Magdalen, daughter of Sir John Scrimzeour, of Dudhope, Constable of Dundee. He was Sheriff Principal of Aberdeenshire in 1634, and in several subsequent years; he was held in high estimation by Charles I., who made out a patent creating him Earl of Aberdeen, which, however, was prevented from passing the Great Seal by the breaking out of the Civil War. The Drum family then possessed extensive and valuable estates in the counties of Aberdeen, Forfar, and Banff; among many others, Cromar, Forglen, Kinmuck, Kelly in Arbirlot, Lonmay, Fedderate, Artamford, and Auchindoir. In 1639 Sir Alexander continued to retain the office of Sheriff, but he suffered much in his person, his family, and his property, on account of his attachment to the Royal cause.

It was on the 2nd June, 1640, that the Covenanter, General Munro, accompanied by the Earl

Marischal, marched to besiege the Castle of Drum. Spalding relates that the laird was then from home, but that his lady with some "prettie men" were within the house, which had been previously furnished with ammunition and provisions. When the army of the Covenanters came within musket shot they were saluted by a discharge, which killed two of their number, and induced the assailants to try the effect of a parley, previous to persevering in their efforts to reduce this strong tower by warlike means. In answer to the summons, the lady requested time for decision, and twenty-four hours were granted that she might obtain her husband's opinion; previous, however, to the expiry of this truce, the lady determined to surrender, and delivered up the keys on condition that her soldiers should be permitted to march out with their baggage, and that she herself, her children, and women servants should be permitted to remain and occupy an apartment in the castle.<sup>1</sup>

These conditions being accepted, Munro left a garrison of an officer and forty men to live at free quarters, and enjoined the lady to send her husband to him on his arrival. He left Drum on the 5th of June, returning triumphantly to Aberdeen, where, accompanied by the Earl Marischal, he attended divine service, and returned thanks for the capture of this stronghold without greater difficulty, delay, or loss.

1. Castles of Aberdeenshire, p. 40.

The persecution of the house of Drum did not terminate with the incident just recorded, for the next laird in succession was subjected to still greater hardships and dangers; he, in his father's lifetime, married the Lady Mary Gordon, fourth daughter of George, second Marquis of Huntly,<sup>1</sup> and was a zealous friend and supporter of the great Marquis of Montrose. The marriage did not tend to weaken, but rather to strengthen and confirm in him those political principles which he had inherited from his forefathers. Accordingly, he and his brother Robert, during the lifetime of their father, joined the banner of Charles, and distinguished themselves so highly in his service that they were excommunicated 14th April, 1644, and had a price set upon their heads; Eighteen thousand merks being offered for the young laird, dead or alive, and Nine thousand merks for Robert. In view, therefore, of their perilous position, they endeavoured to escape to England by embarking on a small ship at Fraserburgh, but being obliged, through adverse winds, to land at Wick, where a committee of the Estates happened to be sitting, they were made prisoners and warded in the castle of Keiss. Thence they were conducted, under a strong escort, to Edinburgh, and lodged in the city jail. Robert, after a rigorous confinement of six months, died, and was secretly buried at midnight. The young laird, who occupied the

1. History *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 574.

same apartment, and whose health had also become impaired, was removed to the castle under sentence of death. His execution, however, was happily averted by the defeat of the Covenanters at Kilsyth in 1645; and, in compliance with the stipulations made by the Marquis of Montrose with the delegates from Edinburgh, he and the other prisoners there were restored to liberty.

In the following year the young laird with a troop of horse, and Farquharson of Invery with two hundred infantry, beat up the quarters of the Covenanters on Deeside, within six miles of Aberdeen, taking seventy prisoners with all their horses, baggage and provisions.

In April, 1660, Drum appeared before the Synod of Aberdeen, and supplicated the Synod to interpose its authority and advice to the Presbytery to "forbear to pronounce ther sentence of excommunication agaynst him for poperie," and the Synod "beeing verie desyrous by all lawfull means to gayne thee said Alexander Irwing of Drumm to thee profession of thee trueth," sustained the application, and ordered the Presbytery to "entertane frequent conferences with thee said Laird."<sup>1</sup>

In 1661, the year after the accession of Charles II., Drum presented a petition to the King as follows:—"That your petitioner and his family have not onely endured the generall calamities of the late times, but also have felt a

1. Ecclesiastical Records of Aberdeen, p. 261.

storme of peculiar misery to fall heavily vpon them above many others, and that meerly for their constant loyalty to your Majestie. For besides the long imprisonment of his father and of himselfe, and the loss of his brother . . . his lands were the first of Scotland that were spoiled and wasted, his father was twice fyned in foure thousand pounds sterling, his house of Drum foure times garisoned and at length totally plundered, his wife and children turned out of dores, and the revenue of his land detained from him for the space of five yeares by one of the name of Forbes, whereby your petitioners family, which before was in a plentiful and prosperous condition, is now become very low and in daunger of sinking. May it therefore please your Majestie of your innate goodness and bounty to take your petitioners sufferings and losses into your princely consideration, and not permit his family to perish for fidelity to your Majestie, but rather graciously assigne him some reparation out of the estates of those who have received his fines and detained his rents, or by any other way your Majestie in your royall wisdome shall think fitting."<sup>1</sup>

All the reparation the laird would appear to have received was an offer of the Peerage which had previously been made to his father, but, in the then circumstances of the family, it was declined. About twenty years afterwards, the king, in changing the

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 311.

holding of the lands from simple ward to taxed ward, took occasion to express the deep sense which he entertained of the family's eminent loyalty and good services and sufferings in the cause of the Government. Sir Alexander Irvine died in 1687, and was buried in Drum's Aisle of the Church of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, his funeral being attended by the magistrates and citizens under arms. He was survived by a son, Alexander, who succeeded, and four daughters. Of the latter, Mary married Patrick, Count Leslie of Balquhain, Margaret married Gilbert Menzies of Pitfodels, Jean married Alexander Irvine of Murtle, and Henrietta married Alexander Leslie of Pitcaple. In his old age the laird is said to have married a second wife of humble origin, which gave rise to the ballad :—

“The Laird o’ Drum is a hunting gane  
All in the morning early ;  
And he has spied a well far’d May  
Was shearing at her barley.”

In 1687, while upon his death-bed, he tailzied his estate, failing heirs male of his own body, to the Irvines of Murtle, Artamford, and Cults, and their heirs male in order.<sup>1</sup> His eldest son Alexander, who succeeded, died in 1695, before the birth of his expected child. The death, under such circumstances, was the cause of some curious proceedings.

1. Nisbet's *Heraldry*, II., pp. 67-8.



Before the burial had taken place, Alexander Irvine of Murtle, the heir under the entail, took possession of Drum Castle, and treated the widow, Marjory Forbes, with such harshness that she and her relatives, William, Lord Forbes, Sir Alexander Forbes of Tolquhon and others, were compelled to petition the Privy Council to ordain the laird of Murtle and his associates to remove from Drum for a stated period. The complaint bore that since it has "pleased God to call the Laird of Drum by death, the said Murthill has thereupon convocat a Band of Armed men to the number of . . . with Swords, Guns, Sparrs, Fore Hammers, Axes, and others, And under silence of night did, so barbarously Assault and invade the House of Drum, while the Corps was yet Un-buried, that they have scaled the Walls, broken up the Gates and Doors, torn off the Locks, and Possessed themselves so far of all the Rooms, that the Lady is confined to a most miserable Condition, in a remote obscure narrow corner, and there is no access allowed to her, but at one indecent and most inconvenient Back-Entry ; So that she is . . . under Dread and Fear of being Murdered by the said outrageous Band of Men sua convocat by Murthill, who carrouse and roar night and day to her great Disturbance and Terror - . . ."

Alexander Irvine of Murtle succeeded to the estates of Drum, and thereupon sold Murtle and Strachan, the latter of which was not included in the entail.

It was during the time of this proprietor that "Two Ingenious Gentlemen" who were travelling from Fettercairn to Deeside, having lost their way, "fell upon Drum Irwing's House, where they found much kindness, and all things Commendable, save a great Queech, which they were made to drink out of, to amend which, one of the Gentlemen, after Departure, sent a lesser one," together with a poem, in which, while deprecating immoderate indulgence in liquor, he compliments the laird of Drum on his hospitality, and speaks of his two sons as:—

. . . . . roaring Boyes  
Not drunk with wine but overdrunk with Joys,  
Rose up, and on their tiptoes danc't a Dance  
That all the Light-Foot Satyres within *France*  
Could ne'er for all their Documents of Art  
Have played the like in whole or yet in part."<sup>1</sup>

On Irvine's death in 1719, he was succeeded by his son, Alexander, who died unmarried in 1735, when the estate came into the possession of his uncle, John Irvine, who married Katherine, daughter of Robert Fullerton of Dudwick, and died in 1737, leaving no family, the male line of the Murtle branch becoming extinct. The succession then devolved upon Alexander Irvine of Crimond, great-grandson of John Irvine of Artamford. In 1744, he became likewise heir of line to the entailer by the death, without male issue, of Irvine of Saphock. In 1698 he had married Isabel, daughter of Thomas Thompson of Faichfield. Their eldest

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 370.

son died without issue, but the second, Alexander, inherited the estates of Drum and Crimond. He took part in the Stuart rising of '45, and his name in the list of those engaging in it appears thus:—"Alexander Irvine Esqr of Drum carried arms with the rebels during the whole Rebellion. Now lurking in the Highlands." Subsequently being pardoned, he married in 1751, Mary, second daughter of James Ogilvie of Auchiries, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. This Laird of Drum died in 1761, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander, born in October, 1754; he married on the 31st December, 1775, Jane, only daughter of Hugh Forbes of Schivas; they had four sons and one daughter. Alexander Forbes Irvine, the eldest of this family, was born in 1777, and became an advocate at the Scottish Bar; he succeeded in 1807, to the estate of Schivas, as heir of entail, and, in 1816, married Margaret, daughter of James Hamilton, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. On the death of his father, he became the Laird of Drum, and afterwards reclaimed by excambion part of the adjoining property of Culter, which had formerly been a portion of the extensive and valuable estates of the family. His heir and successor, Alexander Forbes Irvine, the nineteenth laird, was Sheriff of Argyllshire till 1891, and, for the long period of twenty seven years acted as Convener of the County of Aberdeen. He married a daughter of Colonel Forbes Leslie of Rothienorman, author

of *Eleven Years in Ceylon, Early Races of Scotland*, and other works. Of this marriage one son survives.

With regard to the Castle of Drum, the following interesting particulars are taken from the *Castles of Aberdeenshire*.<sup>1</sup> "The very ancient tower, and more modern house of Drum, is situated in the parish of Drumoak, and about ten miles from Aberdeen. Placed on an eminence, and surrounded by extensive woods, it forms a striking and picturesque object worthy of its history as a former royal residence, and more recently the baronial seat of one of the most ancient and powerful families in the county.

"The more modern part of the house of Drum was remodelled in 1619, but the tower is of many centuries earlier date. It is a large and massive building, rounded at the angles, being fifty feet six inches in length, thirty-eight feet six inches wide, and seventy feet six inches high. The walls are twelve feet in thickness in the first storey above ground, and of still greater solidity in the vaults below, in one of which is a draw-well. From the first storey in the south-east corner, within the wall, ascends a stair which leads to the higher parts of the building. The different storeys are all vaulted, and the uppermost is thirty feet in height. The tower had an alcoved roof of considerable height, which is now removed, and one of less

1. *Castles of Aberdeenshire*, p. 37.

altitude and leaded has been substituted. There is a broad terrace covered with flagstones within the parapet, which is embrazured to a height affording protection to its garrison in times when defence became necessary.

“ The form and construction of the tower, which forms the oldest part of the Castle of Drum, its internal arrangements, its situations and materials, as well as other circumstances, local and historical, all point to an early period, and give support to the tradition that it was erected by King William the Lion in the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century. Its architecture is of the simplest description. The well in the dungeon, the thickness of the walls, the vaulted roofs, the windows few, small, and far from the ground, no entrance lower than the first floor, which was only reached by steps originally removable in times of danger, all show that it was built for security and defence, whilst its position commanded on the north and west by a contiguous range of rising ground, proves that its strong walls were not intended to withstand cannon. The rounded corners of this otherwise square tower, like the round towers at the corner of the curtain walls of more extensive castles and places of defence in the olden time, afforded no salient points for the battering engines to act upon. These are all reasons why this tower may be of so early a date ; and one of the arguments against its being of a later era is the useless expense from the great

strength of its construction and the inconvenience from so little light being admitted ; whilst, after the use of cannon, its position rendered it entirely indefensible against ordnance, which, from the adjoining eminence, might fire point-blank on the summit of the tower. The interior consists of three vaulted chambers, each of which occupies an entire storey. A small recess formed in the wall of each of the two highest compartments is the only attempt at any further separate accommodation provided in the original masonry, although it seems probable that wooden platforms, forming additional floors, were supported on the corbel-tables which project immediately beneath the spring of the arches of the two uppermost storeys. One of these floors, in fact, still remained until nearly forty years ago, when the middle storey was made into the present library. The lowest and highest compartments are still untouched as when they left the hands of the builders centuries ago."<sup>1</sup>

#### ESTATE OF LEYS.

THE family of Burnett, the owners of this property, is of great antiquity in the South of Scotland.<sup>2</sup> In 1128 Robert de Burnard witnessed the foundation charter by David I. of the Abbey of

1. Ferguson's *Railway Scenery*, p. 93.

2. Douglas *Baronage*, p. 41.

Kelso, but at what period the family settled in the north cannot be accurately stated. In 1306, certain lands that had belonged to the Wauchopes,<sup>1</sup> till their downfall in that year, were granted to the Burnetts, as was also the office of forester of the forest of Drum. The hunting, or tenure horn, pertaining to the office, is still possessed by the family, and a fine woodcut of it is given in Wilson's *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, vol. II., plate XXV., page 501. It is ivory mounted with silver gilt, and has a baldric or scarf of green, silk tasselled.

In 1323 King Robert Bruce conveyed the forest of Drum with the appointment of forester to William de Irwine, and in the following year granted to Alexander de Burnard, in recompense for the loss of that office, and in discharge of a debt due to him for making the park of the forest, the lands of "Kilhenach Clerach and the six merk lands of the two Cardenys."<sup>2</sup> The former are situated in the parish of Drumoak, and the latter comprehend part of the parish of Skene and about half of the parish of Banchory-Ternan, north of the Dee, the other half of the last named parish being then in the possession of the convent of Arbroath, to which also the cure and tithes belonged.

Alexander de Burnard was succeeded by his son Robert, who got the lands confirmed to him by a charter, under the great seal, from King David

1. Catalogue *Archaeological Museum Edinburgh*, p. 118.

2. Douglas *Baronage*, p., 41.

Bruce, dated at Scone, 17th November, 1358.<sup>1</sup> John, the son who succeeded, held the office of King's macer, for which he had an annuity of ten merks, a considerable sum in those days. He had the property erected into a barony under the designation of "Leys," and his son, Robert, was the first that bore that title. The seventh laird, Alexander Burnett, in 1497 got a tack from the Abbot of Arbroath of the lands of Glenfarquhar.<sup>2</sup> The ninth proprietor was John Burnett, who married Elizabeth Lumsden, daughter of the laird of Cushnie. The eleventh proprietor, Alexander Burnett, married Katharine, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Lismore, by whom he had seven daughters and six sons. Of the latter, the eldest son predeceased his father; the third, James of Craigmyle, was the progenitor of the Burnetts of Monboddo; the fourth, Robert, became Lord Crimond, a lord of Session; the fifth died unmarried, and the sixth, John, was the factor for the Scots at Campvere. The second son, Thomas, who succeeded to Leys, had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by James VI.<sup>3</sup> Later, in April 1626, Charles I. created him a Baronet of Nova Scotia,<sup>4</sup> and in 1642 gave him a charter to the lands and barony of Strachan. He was conspicuous in supporting the Covenant, and in

1. Douglas *Baronage*, I., p. 41.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, p. 42.

4. Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, I., p. 489.



resisting the prelatic measures of Charles and his Court. In conjunction with Dr. Alexander Reid, he erected and endowed the Reid-Burnett schools in Banchory-Ternan, and in 1648 mortified four crofts beside the Crabstane, Aberdeen, "for behoof of three bursars in King's College."<sup>1</sup> He was twice married—first, to Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie, and secondly, to Jean, daughter of Sir John Moncrieff.

The fifteenth laird and third baronet, Sir Thomas Burnett, member for Kincardineshire in the last Scottish parliament, was a strenuous opponent of the Union.

The fifth baronet, Sir Robert, died unmarried, and the title thereupon devolved upon his cousin, Sir Thomas Burnett. He married Catherine, sister of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, and died in 1783. His eldest son, Sir Robert, the seventh baronet, was for some time an officer in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and served throughout the first American War, in which he was taken prisoner at Saratoga. He died in 1837, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Thomas, who died in February, 1849, when his brother, Sir Alexander, H.E.I.C.S., became ninth baronet, and died unmarried, 20th March, 1856. His next brother, Sir James Horn Burnett, succeeded as tenth baronet. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Kincardineshire, and, dying in 1876, was succeeded by his son, the present proprietor, Sir Robert Burnett, Bart.

1. *Fasti Aberdonenses*, p. 535.

The general history of the family is associated with the memory of men of great ability, education, and worth who have bequeathed substantial intellectual legacies to the country. Dr. Gilbert Burnett, bishop of Salisbury, who graduated at Marischal College, Aberdeen, before he was fourteen years of age, and was licensed to preach before he was eighteen, was the son of Robert Burnett of Crimond. He is described as having been "a most elegant and powerfull preacher; very frank and very plain in manners; uncurious of politeness, save in the pulpit, harangues of parliament, and in the stile of his writings, which are not a few, and like to live as long as the reform'd religion lives in Britain—that is to doomsday."<sup>1</sup> He will be best remembered by his work, *The History of My Own Times*. His brother, Sir Thomas Burnett, who occupied the position of court physician, was the author of several valuable works. Three grandsons of the first baronet likewise achieved distinction. Two of them, Duncan and Thomas, were eminent physicians in England, and the third, Gilbert, was professor of philosophy at Basle, and afterwards at Montauban.

Crathes Castle, the family seat of the Burnett family, is thus described in *Billing's Baronial Antiquities*—"Deeply retired in luxurious woods, the glimpse of this mansion, obtained from the highway, excited only without gratifying curiosity,

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, I., pp. 39-40.

until a late thinning of the timber developed more fully its crowded mass of picturesque architectural peculiarities. Though consisting of the elements common to most of the northern mansions—a multitude of conical turrets, high crow-stepped gables, and angular dormer windows—there is something quite peculiar in the arrangement of these details. They are not cast free to shew their separate outlines in the sky, but are, as it were crowded and pressed together, as if the free air offered the architect insufficient room for a full development of his resources. The turrets run into kindred forms in the towers and gables, and are depressed below the higher levels of the edifice. The outline is thus lumpish, but the general effect of the middle grouping is one of extreme richness and picturesqueness.

The appearance of the building at once proclaims it to be the gradual accumulation of additions made at various times to the original old square tower with rounded edges.”<sup>1</sup>

A writer in the early part of the last century says—“The house of Crathess is well built, well planted with natural and artificial wood; the gardens produce delicate fruit; the soil is warm; the victual [meaning the grain] substantial and weighty.”<sup>2</sup>

The Court Book of the Barony of Leys gives considerable insight to the baronial jurisdiction of

1. Billing's *Baronial Antiquities*, vol. I.

2. *Antiquities Aberdeen and Banff*, I., p. 38.

past times, as well as an idea of what was expected of tenant-farmers in the seventeenth century.

In 1621 John Campbell was appointed "pundlar for keiping of the new wards and zoung woods," and ordained to poind for every "man, womane, hors or nolt," apprehended within the walls, 3s. 4d., and for "llk scheip aucht penneis." 1623, James Paterson being convicted for deforcing John McKay in taking back a horse which had been lawfully poinded ordered to pay a fine of £40, and to sit twenty four hours in the stocks. 1625, Thomas Duncan and his son being convicted of hurting, wounding, and blood drawing of Alex. Craigmyle, ordained to pay £40 to the laird, and to ward till the same be paid, with £5 of compensation to the complainer. 1626, ordained that whatsoever husbandman be found absent from any "vpanischaw" pay 40s.. and every "coatter" and girsman 20s., and every "hyerman" 10s. Ten men were subsequently fined as above for absence from the "wapin-schaw." 1628, ordained that if any man "brew ane firLOT of malt to sell" the brewer "sall assuiredlie pay ane steane of tallow," under pain of poinding. 1629, three tenants commissioned to keep order among all "flytters and bakbytters," and to put them in the stocks till payment be made of 40s.' 1634, ordained that whatsoever "brouster sall recept or sell aill" to any of the lairds domestic servands shall pay £10 to the laird. 1637, decreed that all tenants due peats or fire that ought to be carried in to the lairds "bairnes in Aberdeen, or that may not

be carried in to them in due time in future shall pay for each load 40s. ; as also decreed that whatsoever fire the tenants may carry to Aberdeen for their own use shall be taken from them and given in to the said bairnes chalmerer into the colledge. On the same date all tenants who have any "sklaitis" at their houses ordered to bring them to the place of Leys within forty-eight hours under the penalty of £10. 1639, the "haile" tenants decerned to be in the "pairt" appointed by the laird or his son, in two or three hours space in "ony pairt of the lards avin bounds," for holding out the highlandmen, &c., &c., under penalty of £20; as also any husbandman having any of the lairds "gunnis or muskats" and bringing them not out at the meeting to defend the ground to pay £20 "for the gunn." 1649, on the complaint of the officer that tenants who pay rent in fowls, &c., go to Aberdeen and sell these quhairthrow the lairds hens is "altogidder misserweit," decreed that each tenant who deliurs not in future the fowls as commandit shall pay 12s. for each capon, 6s. for each hen, and 3s. for each chicken within twenty-four hours under the pain of poiding. 1650, statute that no tenant "striik nor ding wthers beastes," as great "skaith" lately done through the animals being struck indiscreetly with great trees and stones. 1660, the stewart showing that he had been frequently reprov'd for presenting to the laird's table "ewill baikin bread," and that he was "nocht abill to amend the same for the want of

barme," decerned as "thair is ane gryt pluralite of brewars within the laird's awin lands, that ilk ane in his turn" shall give weekly "ane quart of barme," and receive three loaves in exchange for the same.

#### ESTATE OF PARK.

ROBERT I., in granting the forest lands of Drum to William de Irwine, reserved "the park" of the same, which in 1359 was granted, in free forest, by David II. to Walter Moigne. Shortly afterwards, John Moigne, described as "Lord of the Park of the Droum," entered into an agreement with Alexander Irvine of Drum, by the terms of which it was provided—first, that on the death of Moigne, the lands of Park should belong to Irvine and his heirs; second, that in the interim Irvine should have the chalder of meal, which he had been wont to pay annually for the upkeep of the park; third, that the profits of courts should be divided equally; and fourth, that Irvine should have the privilege of appointing a forester at "Badarach," who was to have of land to the sowing of six firlots of bere, and five bolls of oats.<sup>1</sup> In 1389 Robert II. granted a charter of the lands to the said Alexander Irvine, whose descendants retained them till 1737, when, the entail having been broken, they were sold to Patrick Duff of Culter.

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 294.

In 1807 the property was purchased at the upset price of Nine thousand pounds by Thomas Burnett, advocate in Aberdeen. Fourteen years later, he sold it to William Moir, who, in 1822, erected on the property a substantial mansion house in the Grecian style of architecture, and had the garden and surrounding policies laid out with much taste and judgment.

In 1839 Alexander John Low, afterwards Kinloch, became proprietor under the following circumstances. In the beginning of the century, James Kinloch, a native of Kincardineshire, entered the house of Forbes and Company in India, in which he ultimately became a partner. He died a bachelor,\* leaving a considerable fortune to the family of a sister, Mrs Low, whose husband was a partner in the firm of Forbes, Low and Company, Manufacturers, Aberdeen. The testator provided that Seventy thousand pounds of the residue of his estate should be invested in the purchase of land in Scotland, and also that his heir should assume the surname of Kinloch—provisions which were readily complied with. The heir, A. J. Low, afterwards Kinloch, was bred a physician, and by his wife, a daughter of the late James Hutcheon, West

\* Within the grounds of Park House there is a polished granite obelisk which bears the following inscription :—

“ IN MEMORY OF JAMES KINLOCH, ESQ., JERMYN STREET, ST. JAMES’S, LONDON, FORMERLY OF BOMBAY, IN THE EAST INDIES, WHO DIED ON THE 29TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1838, IN THE 63RD YEAR OF HIS AGE. ERECTED BY HIS NEPHEWS.”

India Merchant, had a large family. For many years before his death he was proprietor of Altries, in the parish of Maryculter.

The estate was purchased from Mr. Kinloch's Trustees in July, 1888, for Forty-seven thousand pounds by Andrew Penny, silver and copper mine owner, of Oruro, Bolivia. Mr. Penny, who was a native of the parish of Birse, was much attached to Deeside, and intended to take up his permanent residence at Park, but while *en route* for Scotland died intestate and without issue, at Hamanchaca, South America, on 18th May, 1889. He was succeeded by his brother and heir-at-law, James Penny.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

(*St. Mayot or Mazota, Virgin*).

DRUMOAK has, for its titular Saint, Mayot or Mazota, Virgin, whose feast was formerly kept on 22nd December, and whose name is perpetuated by a well, known by the name of St. Maik's Well. It is said that Garnard, being at war with the Britons, was admonished in a vision to send to Ireland for his cousin, Saint Bride, to instruct him in the faith, and that she came bringing with her nine nuns, the chief of whom was this Saint Mazota. It is further stated that the King, having been



baptised, built a Cathedral which was duly consecrated, and that Saint Bride and Saint Mazota, with their eight companions, took up their abode there, and lived in the profession and practice of the doctrines and precepts of religion.<sup>1</sup>

Boece will have Saint Mazota to have been the eldest of the nine daughters of Saint Donald, who lived in the Glen of Ogilvy in Glammis parish, where their fields were infested with wild geese that ate up their corn till this nun so effectually forbade them to return that they were never afterwards seen there.<sup>2</sup>

The Church of "dulmayok" was confirmed to the See of Aberdeen by Pope Adrian IV., in 1157,<sup>3</sup> and in the Old Taxation of 1275 it is rated at Six merks. In 1368 the pastor was made a member of the chapter of the Cathedral of Old Machar—ranking as fifth prebend.<sup>4</sup> The change was made by Bishop Alexander Kinninmond, the second of that name, through the intervention of "Master John of Pebles."<sup>5</sup>

The following interesting particulars concerning the old church are given in Logan's *MS. Notes*.\*

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, I., pp. 274-75.

1. *Ibid*, p. 275.

3. *Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis*, I., p. 6.

4. *Orem's Old Aberdeen*, p. 128.

5. *Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis*, II., p. 253.

\* It is here stated that the parish "is usually called Drumoak, probably from Drum the neighbouring estate—a term that has long applied to the parish, but the proper name is 'Dalmaek,' *i.e.*, the

"The Church is situated close to the river Dee, on a point formed by a small brook, running on the north-east side, and this stream forms the march between Dalmaek and Peterculter, the kirk standing, like many other old structures, at the extreme east corner of the parish, so that the kirk road is even carried through the parish of Peterculter for some way. Nine ploughs of Dalmaek are in Kincardineshire.

Near the Church is a well of excellent water, called 'Maek's Well,' from the patron saint. A place must have existed here from a very early period. . . .

In 1576 the 'Parsonage of Dalmaek' was valued at £33 6s. 8d.

In 1630 'Drummaock' belonged to the Bishoprick of Aberdeen.

The Church appears to be very old, 56 feet broad and 18 feet 10 inches wide. The belfry is raised on a projecting buttress carried up inside, and terminating in a circular basement, on which the bellhouse — a later work, is built. Above the west door is a small aperture surrounded by a moulding apparently for the reception of a coat of arms or inscription. At a corner or peatstone, on the north side are the letters L . A. S.\*

haugh of Moek, the Church having been dedicated to a saint so called, who was the first Abbot of Port Moak in Kinross-shire."

\* The north wall of the church was rebuilt and a new roof put on during the incumbency of Rev. Alexander Scroggy, 1607-21. The last two letters, above referred to, are his initials.

Near the east end is a small recess, supposed to have been for images, &c. Beside the western door is seen the receptacle of the holy water, or rather a portion only, for, as it projected, the stone is broken off level to the wall.\* The west door and that next to the west end are arched inside, and we see how the latter was secured, by a bar drawn from one side and inserted in the opposite wall. The small window in this part has been secured by iron bars, as also has the one next the east end, which, like most of those in that place, was enriched by mouldings.

The north wall is a later erection than the other parts. The height of the lateral walls—and they are not so low as some—is 10 feet 6 inches.

In both ends of the kirk are galleries which are older than the other pews, but are plain. The western rests on stone corbels in each wall, four on the north and two on the south. The seat of the Laird of Drum is opposite to the pulpit, and is distinguished by a Baldachin or canopy supported by square fluted pillars. The old pulpit, removed when the church was furnished with new seats, is now preserved by Mr. Paul, the worthy school-master, who prays in it to his scholars morning and evening. It is of simple design, with a square canopy. Under it were found a skull and several bones, believed to be the remains of a former

\* The broken off stoup or basin for holy water, which is carved with a grotesque head of Gothic character, is carefully preserved in the chapel, Drum Castle.

incumbent. Few of the old seats were ornamented. The floor is rough causeway or laid with stone in the passes.

The bell, which some years since was riven, was sold to Mr. Walker, an ingenious person in Skene, at whose death it was purchased by a gentleman in Buchan. The old communion cups were described . . . as having been shallow and broad like a small plate, with projecting handle. A sand-glass is used.

In the west wall of the churchyard is a rude and apparently very ancient column, on which is placed a sun-dial, repaired by the present school-master, and bearing the date, 1723. The churchyard walls were repaired in 1683, the minister having promised the Session to renew the stiles at his own expense, if they would build the dykes sufficiently. These dykes are only dry stone, about breast high, and are now in sad ruin, although Mr. Fraser made an offer similar to his predecessor.

The weird of this kirk is that it will fall in time of worship.

The register of births commences 1692, and is entitled 'The Session Book of Drumoak, begune this third day of January, 1692, *vox audita peret littera scripta manet.*'

We find a list of about twenty persons buried in the church. 'April 14th, 1744, being Saturday, Mr. William Shanks, Minister at Brichen, and son of Shanks of Drumoak, was buried in the kirk.'

Mr. Shanks, whose monumental inscription is now illegible, was buried on the 8th March, 1749. Ten merks was the sum paid for a burial within the church.

The register of marriages begins anno 1715.

Ten merks were formerly paid to the Session for permission to place a layerstone or slab in the churchyard ; it has now been augmented to One pound sterling. About 140 years ago the kirk beadle made complaint to the minister and elders, that people came by night from other parishes and opened graves to themselves, by which he was deprived of his just fees. At this time those who were not parishioners were obliged to purchase the ground, but there is now a part called 'the strangers' ground' set apart for their use.

About the same time some persons, having met at Canaglerach, a farm near the hill of Fare, in the north west extremity of the parish, became very jovial in the course of the evening, and drank a bumper to the health of the devil. For this they were sharply dealt with by the Session . . .

There is no register of burials kept, but the gravedigger inters about ten parishioners annually.

All are of the Established religion but one Episcopalian family . . . ."<sup>1</sup>

In 1331, Alexander, bishop of Aberdeen, gave the kirk land of "Dulmaoch and Petbracher" next the forest of Drum, with the right of pasturage in

1. Logan's *MS. Notes*.

the common in the forest, to William Irvine, or Irwyn, for yearly payment of Forty-six shillings and eight pence sterling.<sup>1</sup> In 1452, Irwyn's descendants resigned these lands into the hands of Bishop "Ingeram."<sup>2</sup> Difficulties, however, seem to have arisen as to the legal rights of parties, but these were settled on 11th February, 1492, by the following judgment :—" The lordis of consale decrettis and deliueris that Alexander Irwin sall decist and cess fra the occupacioun and manurin of the landis of Dulmaok and Petbrechare to be broikit and manurit be a reuerend faider in God William Bischop of Abirdene and his tenentis."<sup>3</sup>

The glebe, which in 1790 extended to about five acres arable and the same in rough pasture, was subsequently enlarged by a gift from the proprietor of Culter of a piece of ground in mortmain to the minister, but, in 1836, when a new manse was erected, the old glebe was excambied for a new one of about twenty-eight acres.<sup>4</sup>

The present church, which is a neat Gothic structure from designs by the late Archibald Simpson, architect, Aberdeen, was founded in the spring of 1835, and opened for divine service on the 13th November, 1836. It has 630 sittings, and stands in the corner of a field about a mile to the north-west of the former church.

1. *Registrum Aberdonensis*, I., pp. 52, 53.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 271.

3. *Acta Dominorum*, p. 280.

4. *New Statistical Account of Aberdeenshire*, p. 896.

The stipend in 1792 was returned at £37 7s. 9d., with 28 bolls of meal.<sup>1</sup> It is now stated at £182 per annum.

The communion utensils consist of two silver cups dated 1787, two silver cups dated 1840 (presented by Miss Irvine of Drum), two pewter plates without date, but probably made in 1787, one silver-plated tankard dated 1885, and four gilded plates added in 1885.<sup>2</sup>

#### MINISTERS.

1407. Alexander de Kynloch, Prebendary.<sup>3</sup>

1457. Alexander Vaus, Prebendary,<sup>4</sup> with John de Kynloch as Vicar.<sup>5</sup>

1483. Sir William Donaldson, Vicar.<sup>6</sup> His services were frequently requisitioned in disputes regarding estate boundaries. He was witness to an Instrument of Sasine in connection with the property of Durris.<sup>7</sup>

1499. George Johnston or Johnsonsone, Prebendary.<sup>8</sup>

1518. John Galloway, Prebendary.<sup>9</sup>

1. Old Statistical Account of Scotland, III., p. 316.

2. Session Records, &c.

3. Regist. Capell, p. 66.

4. Collections, *Aberdeen and Banff*, p. 347.

5. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 298.

6 and 7. *Ibid.*, III., pp. 123, 233, 243, &c.

8. *Fasti Aberdonenses*, pp. 29-47.

9. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, II., p. 365.

1540. William Hay, Rector.<sup>1</sup> Hay, who was a native of Forfarshire, was educated at Paris, where he for some time taught philosophy. He returned to Scotland along with Hector Boece on receiving an appointment as one of the regents of King's College, Aberdeen. Besides being a professor in the college, he held the rectorship of Drumoak, also the sub-principalship of the university, and on the death of Boece, in 1536, became principal.<sup>2</sup>

1541. Robert Lockhart, Vicar.<sup>3</sup>

1560. Thomas Hay, Rector.<sup>4</sup> He was one of the attesting witnesses to a deed, by the master of Erroll, ratifying the marches between the lands of Ardlethen and those of Chapelton and Oldmill of Esslemont.

1566. Cuthbert Reid, Rector.<sup>5</sup>

1567. Arthur Forbes,<sup>6</sup> Minister of "Echt, Kemnay and Dilmaok," with George Fraser and Alexander Gerard as Readers, at a salary of 20 lib. each.<sup>7</sup>

1574. John Graham, Minister, having "Mydmar, Kynarny, and Peterculter" also in charge.<sup>8</sup> The Minister had a stipend of £80 11s. 1½d. scots, along with the kirk lands, and Alexander Gerard

1. *Fasti Aberdonenses*, p. 114, &c.

2. Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, I., p. 335, &c.

3. *Regist. Capell*, p. 100, and *Necrol*, p. 22.

4. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 20.

5. *Ibid*, III., p. 381.

6. *Collections, Aberdeen and Banff*, I., p. 227.

7. *Ibid*, p. 229.

8. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 81.



continued as Reader at the salary of 20 lib. scots, which was paid by the Minister.<sup>1</sup>

1598. Richard Ross removed from Peterculter and admitted at Drumoak on 20th October, 1598. He was appointed, 10th August, 1599, to teach at Peterculter every third Sunday, which duty he renounced, 3rd July, 1601. Being examined on 1st April, 1603, he satisfied "not the brither, and therefor was admonished to give himselff to a greater diligence in studie," and was further enjoined "to understand quhat he teaches befor he delyvered it." He was admonished again, 15th July succeeding, "to keep his house and buik better than he had done hitherto." He was accused 15th June, 1604, of having "past to the pulpit to preiche rashlie, but (without) meditation, and that his doctrine was not formall, ather for the comfort nor for the edifeing of sic ane notable congregatioun."<sup>2</sup> Admonished again, 3rd August thereafter, "to reside thairat with his wiffe and bairns," and twelve days later admitted a Burgess of Aberdeen. He was suspended, 13th October, 1605, for celebrating a marriage in violation of the rules of the Church, and deposed, 14th March, 1606, for "unsufficiency and also for the delapidation of his benefice" by giving a tack for three years of the vicarage to his brother Gilbert, without the special consent of the kirk.<sup>3</sup>

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 366.

2. Presbytery Records.

3. Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 496, and Presbytery Records.

1607. Alexander Scroggy translated from Skene and inducted 26th January, 1607. He was ordained on 7th March following "to make his residence at the kirk." It was stated in July of the same year that "he teaches very learnetlie, and alwayes wold apply himselff to the capacitie of the commoun people"; he was "ordained to reside at the kirk how sune he might"; and was approved in all things, 13th March, 1609, except non-residence "quhilk he affirmit he did in respect that his familie was actuallie resident at the kirk, and himselff everrie Saturday, Sunday, and Munondaye, and is the rest of the week occupyit in the College." Notwithstanding, "he was ordeanit to leave the College at Lambas, and actualie reside himselff with his wyf and family." In 1621 he was translated to Old Machar, and in July, 1627, had D.D. from the University and King's College. He joined the other Aberdeen Doctors in opposing the Covenant, and gave further grave offence by dispensing communion at Christmas 1638, notwithstanding its having been forbidden by the preceding General Assembly. He was deposed on 1st August, 1640, but, a pension having been granted him by the King, "he lived privatt till his death, which was at Rathven, *anno* 1659, in the ninety-fifth year of his age."<sup>1</sup> He is described by Gordon as "a man, sober, grave, and painefull in his calling," and by Baillie as "ane old man, not verie corrupt, yet perverse in the Covenant and Service-book."

1. Scott's *Fasti*, Presbytery Records, &c.

1622. John Gregory, son of James Gregory, saddler, and Burgess of Aberdeen, appointed minister and ordained accordingly. Refusing to sign the Covenant he fled to England in June 1639, but returned shortly afterwards. On 2nd June of the following year, he "wes brocht in to Monro be ane pairtie of soldiouris" having been "takin out of his naikit bed vpone the nicht, and his hous pitefullie plunderit." He was kept a close prisoner for some time, and at last "fynit to pay generall Maior Monro 1000 merks for his out-standing aganis the Covenant, and syne gat libertie to go. But in the generall assemblie holdin in July, he was neuertheless simplicetir deprivit." He was reponed, however, in 1641, again deposed in 1649, and died in 1652. He married Janet, daughter of David Anderson of Finzead. Their son James was the inventor of the reflecting telescope and Professor of Mathematics in the University of St. Andrews and Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup>

1652. Andrew Ballenden was charged before the October meeting of Synod with having "entered into the exerceiss of the ministerie in the kirk of Drummoack, being a deposed minister." He confessed that he had done the same "by warrand from thie Englishers, in respect he was upon the independent and congregationall course"; and on signing an acknowledgment to that effect, and

1. Scott's *Fasti.*, &c.

undertaking to deport himself "from this country," was dismissed.<sup>1</sup>

1654. David Lindsay, who was appointed minister during this or the preceding year, was deprived in 1681 for refusing to take the oath and test imposed by Parliament.<sup>2</sup>

1682. David Lindsay, Junior, son of the preceding, ordained in the middle of summer of this year and died 16th June, 1691.

1691. David Lindsay, Elder, re-entered 21st June, received into Communion by a Committee of the General Assembly, 20th June, 1694, and died 29th September, 1702, aged 76.<sup>3</sup>

1703. Alexander Shank, ordained 4th August. Two years later he married Elizabeth Burnett, in the parish of Banchory-Ternan, by whom he had a large family. Of the sons, Alexander became minister of Arbuthnott, and William minister of Brechin. A tombstone in the wall of the old Church, which is now much defaced, bore that Mr. Shank died on 6th March, 1749, aged 73 years.<sup>4</sup> It may be stated that the present representative of this minister of Drumoak traces his descent from one Murdoch Shank, who, it is said, found the body of King Alexander III. among the cliffs at Kinghorn. For this service it is also stated that Murdoch received a gift of the lands of Castlerig

1. Ecclesiastical Records of Aberdeen, pp. 222-3.

2. Scott's *Fasti*.

3. *Ibid*, p. 497, Session Records, &c.

4. Logan's *MS. Notes*, Session and Presbytery Records.

near Kinghorn, which estate has descended from father to son in the family of Shanks of Castlerig up to the present day, a period of nearly 600 years.<sup>1</sup>

1750. John Glennie ordained 10th January, 1750, and translated to Maryculter, June, 1763.<sup>2</sup>

1764. Alexander Rose licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen in 1761, and ordained 9th May, 1764. Translated to Auchterless in 1774, he died on 7th December, 1810, in his 84th year.<sup>3</sup>

1775. John Fullerton licensed by the Presbytery of Fordoun, ordained 17th August, 1775, and died 27th May, 1785. His tombstone bears that "by instruction, persuasion, and an edifying example of piety, humility, and probity, he uniformly laboured to win the hearts of his flock to the love and practice of pure and undefiled religion." He married Isabel Rose, by whom he had issue two sons, Alexander and Hugh, the latter of whom passed as an advocate in Aberdeen.<sup>4</sup>

1786. James Fraser licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen, and ordained 15th June, 1786. He received the degree of D.D. from the University and King's College, Aberdeen, in 1796, and died 31st January, 1828, in his 73rd year.<sup>5</sup>

1826. Adam Corbet, son of William Corbet of

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 292.

2. Session Records and Separate Register of Presbytery.

3. *Ibid.*, and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., pp. 498-651.

4. Session Records, Separate Register of Presbytery, &c.

5. *Ibid.*

Bielside, licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen in December, 1821, and ordained as assistant and successor to Dr. Fraser, 27th July, 1826. He received the degree of D.D. from the University and King's College, Aberdeen, in May, 1864. He married Christian Blaikie, sister of the late Sir Thomas Blaikie of Aberdeen who survives him. He died on 11th October, 1876.<sup>1</sup>

1877. George Innes Sim, who had been ordained by the Presbytery of Aberlour as assistant to the Minister of Glenlivet, on 26th June, 1872, was inducted at Drumoak on 15th March, 1877. He was released, at his own request, in February, 1883, on receiving an appointment in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.<sup>2</sup>

1883. Charles Mackie, ordained 10th May, 1883.<sup>3</sup>

#### SESSION RECORDS.

THESE Records, comprising ten volumes in an excellent state of preservation, commence of date 10th September, 1682, and run on consecutively to the present time, the only hiatus being from 4th August, 1872, to 20th April, 1873. The matter contained in the records is so interesting, and throws so much light upon the extent and methods

1. Separate Register of Presbytery.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*

of ecclesiastical jurisdiction of former times, that it is proposed to give the following extracts, which have been classified under different headings, for greater convenience.

OFFENCES.

- 1683 Sept. 30th—James Burnett and Margaret Steelhouse confessed that they were absent from Church, but alledged that they went to see friends which were dangerouslie ill, and that they went in the morning and stayed with them all day till night, whereupon they were found faultie in absenting themselves from the publick ordinances without more urgent causes, and therefore were ordained to be rebuked.
- 1684 May 18th—William Steven satisfied for having upon his knees prayed a malediction to John Duncan, his wife, children and bestiall.
- July 20th—James Henderson being charged with striking and abusing Janet Cushnie, and with cursing and speaking disdainfullie of the Minister and Session, compeared and confessed that he took Janet by her plaid to take it from her while she was tending her neighbour's bestiall upon his grass and eating it up, but denyed that he cursed and swore as far as he knew. The Session finding no clear probation of what was alledged against James, did ordain him

- upon what he had acknowledged to appear before the congregation and humble himself on his knees for the said scandal, and the said Janet was forbidden to go upon his grass with her neighbour's bestiall thereafter, to avoid further trouble.
- 1685 February 8th—Isobel Thompson ordered to appear before the Session to answer for absenting herself from the diets of examination.
- June 7th—William Bizzat compeared, and having been formerly fined 40s. for his scandalous profanation of the Lord's Day by beating his servant and disturbing his family under silence of the night, he now undertook to pay other 10s., for which the Session did acquit him.
- 1686 October 17th—Arthur Bizzat compeared and confessed his unseasonable and excessive drinking upon the Lord's Day, for which, and for his absence from the church on that day (without any excuse), he was ordered to appear before the pulpit and acknowledge his fault.
- 1689 March 17th—Isobell Anderson ordered to go to Culsalmond where she had resided formerly, and bring a testimoniall or else to remove out of this parish, which she promised to do.
- April 7th—John Milne being summoned severall tymes to appear before the Session, did appear this day, and engaged under the



penaltie of Six pounds, to cause Isobell Andersone, now in his service, to produce a testimoniall, or to remove her from his service within a fournight after the terme.

1689 Sept. 22nd—Elspet Walker gave in a complaint against Marjorie Reid, that she had cursed her on the Lord's Day, and ordinarlie on the week day, and did abuse her by miscalling her in such an unworthie manner as is not fit to be named, which the said Marjorie Reid denied.

— Sept. 29th—Marjorie Reid and the witnesses adduced against her were called and admitted by her, who being sworn and examined declared all unanimsly that they heard her cursing and scolding her neighbours on the Lord's Day, for which she was appointed to appear before the pulpit in sackcloth the next Lord's Day, and to come and speak to the Minister at his own house.

1690 April 20th—Marjory Reid not having submitted and satisfied for her scandal of cursing and scolding on the Lord's Day, was excommunicated with the lesser sentence.

— August 10th—William Cowper appeared for the third time upon the penitentiall seat ; but, not behaving as a penitent, was not absolved, but ordered to appear before the Session, and also before the congregation another day, and to behave more suitablie, which he absolutely refused to do, alledging that he had appeared

- three Sabbaths. [Not obeying these orders Cowper was afterwards prosecuted before the Presbytery, when he went off as a soldier.]
- 1691 Aug. 26th—Patrick Jamieson compeared and confessed to his shearing his corns on the Sabbath night, alledging that his corns were in danger, and this not being deemed a relevant excuse . . . he was enjoined to appear before the pulpit, and to humble himself upon his knees before the congregation whom he had stumbled by his evill example.
- 1695 June 30th—Alexander Collie and his daughter compeared confessing their scandalous and unnatural beating of one another the last Sabbath, when their nolt were eating on the grasse, and throwing stones and clodds at one another. They were ordered to satisfie before the pulpit with certification, that in case they should fall into such horrid extravagancies on the Lord's Day, they should be both fyned in Ten pounds scots besides the church censure.
- 1697 Sept. 5th—James Baxter delated Elspet Tailour for contracting marriage with an infamous and scandalous person.
- December 26th—Alexander Nicol, Adulterer, having appeared now for the nynth time, and now humbling himself on his knees and publickly acknowledging his heinous transgression to God's Glorie and his own shame, was absolved.

- 1698 August 28th—John Sherret delated as guilty of Sabbath breaking by carrying fire on his horse to Aberdeen, ordered to be summoned.
- 1700 January 7th—John, Alexander, James, and Robert Duncans committed a great and grievous scandall by immediatelie after coming out from divine exercise, in the churchyard, violentlie pursuing, invading, and beating Alexander Cushny, servant to Master John Coutts, to the effusion of his blood, whereby great dishonour was given to God and offence to the whole congregation, which thing the Minister was to delate to the Presbytery.
- 1701 April 27th—John Duncan delated for yoking his oxen on the Lord's Day, and he and his servants ordered to be summoned. [Subsequently compearing and confessing, they were ordered to satisfy before the congregation.]
- Oct. 26th—Alexander Spalding and his wife appeared before the congregation in sackcloth, and confessing their sin of slandering were absolved.
- 1704 May 28th—Elders desired to take special notice of those who haunted taverns upon the Sabbath day, or who go to vage through the fields, and to delate them to the Session.
- 1705 March 25th—John Taylor appointed to appear on the pillory in sackcloth for having drunken the Devil's health.
- April 1st—Alexander Gray and James

Henry appeared before the pulpit and confessed their sin of having taken a fish near to the church on the Sabbath day.

- 1705 June 3rd—Helen Aikin guilty of repeated acts of uncleanness and prevarications, considered incapable of church censure. All converse with her ordered to be avoided, till it should please God to break in upon her heart.
- 1707 Feby 9th—James Henry appeared on the pillory and was absolved from the scandal of taking a goad out of a house, as he went home from church on a recent Sunday.
- 1719 Oct. 18th—Alexander Leith appeared and was rebuked for cursing and praying maledictions against William Marr and his family.
- 1757 June 19th—Salmond fishers again warned to abstain from that impious custom of fishing upon the Sabbath day, else they would be prosecuted.
- 1758 October 22nd—John Nicol and Margaret Lumsden compeared and confessed to having got clandestinely married to each other in Edinburgh. They were fined four pounds scots as also the ordinary dues to the Precentor and Officer.
- 1788 July 13th—Charles Reid the Church Officer having caused much scandal by treating his wife cruelly was today reproved by the Session and warned that if the like occurred again he would be dismissed instanter.

INTIMATIONS, SPECIAL SERVICES, AND REMARKABLE  
EVENTS.

- 1683 Sept. 9th—Thanksgiving observed for his Majesties deliverance from the late unnatural conspiracie.
- 1684 Jan. 27th—No Session this day by reason of the excessive coldness of the weather.
- Feb. 20th—This day there was no publick convention, the day being extraordinarie stormie by snow drift and deep wreathes.
- May 4th—Fast intimated for the sins of the land, for which God had been threatening to alter the seasons of the year by the late violent and long continued storm and frost.
- 1685 Feb. 15th—Intimation made of a sermon of regrave to be preached here the next Lords Day upon the arrivall of the sad and lamentable newes of the death of our late Gracious Sovereigne K. Charles the Second of ever blessed memorie who departed this life upon the Sixth day of Februarie 1685, at noon-day—that is 55th of age and 36th of reign.
- 1687 July 17th—Order read against the harbouring and maintaining of sturdie beggars and vagabonds, and that the poor of the parish must be maintained by the parochiners.
- Oct. 2nd—Act against slanderers, etc., read from pulpit by command.

- 1687 Oct. 9th—Fast intimated in respect of the dismall and dangerous season of the year, the corns being greatlie endangered by the continuall and excessive rains.
- 1688 Feb. 12th—Thanksgiving intimated for the appearance of the increase of the Royal succession by the Queen's being with child.
- June 24th—Thanksgiving intimated for the birth and nativity of the serene and high born prince, the prince and Stewart of Scotland.
- Sept. 9th—There having been a loud wind on Weddensday last, the 5th inst., and this day, in the morning, great thunderings with rain, the Minister preached specially.
- Oct. 14th—Proclamation made against the importing, selling, distributing, or having forbidden books such as *Lex Nex*, *Naphtali*, *Buchanan's de Jure Regni*, a *Cup of Cold Water*, the *Hynd Let Loose*, &c.
- 1689 March 24th—In respect of the coldness and prodigious frostiness and unkyndliness of the season of the year the Minister preached upon Micah 6, 9.
- Sept. 15th—Fast intimated for the sins of the land and faillings of all sorts of people.
- 1690 June 29th—Fast intimated for a happie successe upon his Majestie King William's forces in Ireland, being gone thither in person for the reducing that Kingdom, subduing the Irish Popish rebels now in armes, and

preserving the Protestant Religion, and for the famine threatened by a prodigious scorching, long continued drought, whereby the fruits of the ground were in danger to be scorched and consumed.

1690 Aug. 10th—Fast intimated for his Majestie's good success against the Papists in Ireland, and for the discoverie and defeating of their grievous plots and designs against the Protestant Religion.

— Aug. 12th—The foresaid day of Thanksgiving was observed, but the countrie being in a fright and the Highland armie lying at Aberdeen, the Congregation was verie infrequent. The Minister nevertheless preached.

— Aug. 17th—No collection this day, the Congregation being allarmed and dispersed before the end of Divine Service with the report of the Highland armies lying at Banchorie.

1694 Dec. 16th—Minister preached upon the occasion of the great mortalitie in the land and the sudden death of an honest man in this parish.

1695 Jan. 20th—Solemn fast and humiliation intimated for the lamentable death of Queen Mary.

1699 May 28th—Intimation made of an order that no stranger reside in the parish without a sufficient testificate from the parioch they formerlie resided in, that thereby all scandal-

- ous persons might be shunned and kept out of the Parioch.
- 1701 Sept. 28th—Order made prohibiting all penny Bridells, as also all pyping and fidling to be made use at publick meetings under certain penalties.
- 1705 July 28th—Sacrament intimated and parishioners ordered to come up before 8 o'clock in the morning.
- 1709 June 5th—Fast intimated for the unseasonableness of the weather and the great loss of flocks and cattell, and many spirituall plagues in all ranks.
- July 24th—Act made prohibiting marriages between Protestants and Papists.
- 1716 June 3rd—Thanksgiving intimated for suppression of the late unhappy rebellion.
- 1717 March 17th—Fast intimated on account of the projected invasion and the obstinate design of a popish faction to bring in the Pretender.
- 1741 July 12th—Fast intimated upon account of the scarcity and famine, and the Spanish war.
- 1745 Feb. 3rd—No lecture nor sermon, the day being so stormy that no person could come forth.
- 1764 Aug. 26th—No afternoon sermon, the Minister being tender.
- 1765 Sep. 22nd—No sermon today, the Minister being in a fever.



- 1766 Jan. 12th—No sermon, the Minister being bad.  
1771 June 2nd—Congregation exhorted not to give in bad copper in their collections.  
1805 Dec. 1st.—Thanksgiving intimated for the naval victory at Trafalgar.

#### LAWS AND ENACTMENTS.

- 1682 Oct. 1st—Enacted that no person be sessioned but on Munday, unless by paying in a pound to the box.  
1683 May 29th—The convention being very small the Elders that were present were called, and after prayer the Minister did signifie to them his dissatisfaction at the infrequence of the day's convention. Surely it might have been expected that at least all masters of families would have been present at such solemn meetings and occasions ! And, therefor, it was enacted this day that every master of a familie that should be found absent from the parish at such solemn occasions, either Sabbath day or week day, without a lawful excuse, should be beehawed in 20s. scots, and this to be intimated.  
1685 April 19th—The Minister representing to the Elders that severalls before had fallen into fornication before their marriage and were

not tymeouslie discovered and delated notwithstanding that there were flying reports in the countrie of their scandalous behaviour. Therefore, for the better and more tymous discoverie thereof in tymes coming (if anie happen) it is appointed and enacted this day that none shall be contracted in marriage or sessioned unless they acquaint the Minister before, on Saturday or Sunday morning at farthest, to that effect that the Elders may be called and enquiries severallie made of their behaviour . . .

1685 Aug. 30th—Act passed for the heightening of the penalties of fornicators from 4 libs. to 5 libs. in respect of the increase of the said sin, and the better to defray the wages of church servants.

1688 Sept. 2nd—The Elders being called, the Minister did represent that to the great scandall of the Congregation some Elders (who ought to give good example to others) were found to be frequently absent from the Church, both they and their wives. Therefore, to remedie this, the Minister thought fit that an old act of this session should be renewed, that in tyme coming whatsoever Elder and his wife should be found to be both absent from the Church together (without a lawfull excuse) shall for the first fault receive a sessionall rebuke, for the second, make an acknowledgment before the

Session, and for the third fault be deprived of their office, which all the Elders present did accord to as most reasonable.

As also it being found scandalous and offensive to neighbour Congregations that severall persons in this parish had contracted marriage too soon after the death of their wives and husbands, it is, therefore, enacted that hereafter no person, man or woman, shall be permitted to contract marriage till a quarter of a year expires after the decease of their respective spouses unless they pay in 4 libs to the box, and this act to be intimated.

1699 April 16th—Complaint given in by the Elders against the generalltie of the people that they were become so unchristian and unhuman as would not so much as help to the churchyard with the dead bodies of poor persons who were daylie dying before them—being invited thereto. Which scandall and unchristianitie the Minister did sharply reprehend from Pulpit, holding out the dangers of pestilence (which God in his mercy prevent !), and warning that hereafter those refusing to attend a buriall when invited should not only be lyable to Church censure, but punishment before the Civill Magistrates.

1776 May 30th—Resolution passed that the seats in the new loft shall now be let at the

following reduced rents :—Each seat in the first pew to be eightpence, in the second sixpence, to the third fivepence, and the two last fourpence.

## CHURCHYARD LAWS, &amp;c.

- 1683 March 14th—The Minister did represent the ruinous condition of the kirkyard dykes to the Elders, who (as formerlie) professed themselves most willing to look to the repairing thereof immediately, and to contribute their utmost . . . . by dividing it equallie among the ploughs of the parish, which afterwards was done and very fullie and sufficientlie repaired. As for the churchyard style, the Minister promised to see to the repairing thereof himself.
- May 29th—The Officer, John Steven, did give in a complaint against some persons both within and without the parish who came privatlie with their burials and broke up the ground in the churchyard [as] they pleased not acquainting him, and buried their dead out of purpose to frustrate him of his accustomed wages . . . . This being found to be a dangerous thing in respect of their not knowing the graves, and likewise most unhandsome and disorderlie, the Session

ordains that in all time coming anie person, either within or without the parish, that have any dead to burie, whether children or persons of riper age, shall acquaint the Church Officer therewith the night before, or at least with as reasonable time before as will suffice to make the grave in the proper place, that he may attend and do his work, and receive his wages therefor, certifying all those who shall fail to do so . . . that they shall be lyable to pay into the poors box 40s., and to pay the Church Officer the double of that which formerlie they should have payed, and in case of their refusall to pay they are to be pursued legally therefor.

- 1685 May 31st—Considering that severall people who buried their deceased relatives in this parish were verie slow and lazie in paying in the money due for their buriall places, and som did altogether neglect to pay it. Enacted that none shall have entrie into the Church or be permitted to breake ground till first they either pay in the money or find sufficient securitie.

COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS, &c.

- 1686 July 18th—Collection intimated for the relief of a distressed French gentleman, a Protestant

who had fled from the furie of the persecution there, and was now at Aberdeen.

- 1690 April 26th—Given 28s. scots for a winding sheet to a man who had drowned in the water of Dee, and was by Providence casten in to land in this parish and buried here.
- 1691 October 25—Given 20s. scots to a distressed Scotsman who had been robbed by the Irish robbers.
- 1692 Dec. 4th—Collected 5 libs. 9s. to the French and Irish Protestants.
- 1695 March 17th—Collected 20s., which was presently given to a poor merchant, a persecuted Protestant from Poland.
- Sept. 1st—Collected for the harbour of Cullen five merks.
- 1700 April 7—Collected for helping to repair the harbour of Kinghorn 14s. scots.
- 1704 Feb. 13—Collected 1 lib. 4s. in favour of John Thomson, who was taken by an Algerian Man-of-War, and sold for a slave.
- 1706 August 18th—Given six shillings to a poor woman who had borne nine children at three births.
- 1707 Jan. 19th—Collected eleven shillings scots for rebuilding the tolbooth and steeple of the burgh of Tain.
- 1709 June 26th—Collected forty four shillings scots for helping to build a church in London for the Germans of the Calvinistic profession.

- 1726 Aug. 28th—Ten pennies given to one Duncan, a broken merchant in Aberdeen.
- 1762 March 11th—Collected £9 1s. 9d. for training up Irish Students to be preachers in the Highlands of Scotland where there are 9000 who have little access for hearing a minister.
- 1769 Nov. 19th—Collected for the building of Gilcomston Church 12 pounds scots.
- 1772 Nov. 1st—Collected only four pence halfpenny the day being tempestuous.
- 1805 March 3rd—Paid 8s. 6d. for a strait waistcoat to one Elizabeth Fullerton, deprived of her reason.
- 1815 Sept. 3rd—Collected £6 10s. for the benefit of the wounded and children and wives of those slain in the battle of Waterloo.

## PETERCULTER.

THIS parish, which originally included the lands of Maryculter on the opposite side of the river, was for long known by the name of *Culter*, but having had its church dedicated to Saint Peter it gradually came to be called Peterculter. The latter part of the name is said to be derived from the Gaelic compound word *Cul-tir*, which signifies the back part of the country, and would correctly apply to a considerable portion of the land on both sides of the Dee.

By an order dated 26th November, 1890, of the Boundary Commissioners, under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, the parish had added to it the whole of the Aberdeenshire portion of Banchory-Devenick, and certain detached portions of lands common to both parishes, extending together to about two thousand three hundred and seventy-four acres, and embracing the estates of Murtle, Cults, and Pitfodels, with their respective subdivisions: but as these have been treated of in the *History of Banchory-Devenick*, they receive no further notice in this volume. With these additions, Peterculter now extends from the boundaries of the city of Aberdeen on the east, to the boundaries of Drumoak on the west, a distance of at least eight miles. The river Dee forms the southern boundary



of the parish, with the exception of the Inch of Culter which is in Kincardineshire, having been detached through the river, when in flood many years ago, changing its natural course.

The parish is rich in prehistoric remains, which are worthy of the special attention of skilled antiquarians. In the moor and woods of Countesswells are numerous tumuli or cairns, which, however, have not yet been explored. A Druidical temple in the plantation on Binghill was carefully enclosed by Mr. Watson, a former proprietor of that property. Near to it is a large cairn, traditionally stated to have been the burying-place of the Irvine family, who at an early period owned the lands. In the end of last century, during the digging up of the foundation of some old walls said to have been part of the mansion house of the Irvine family, there was found a handful of silver coins about the size of sixpences, and inscribed *Davidus Rex*.<sup>1</sup> There is a stone circle on the farm of Eddiestone; also a single rude stone pillar (the remains of another circle), on the farm of Milltimber.<sup>2</sup>

The most interesting relic, is the old camp or military work, which, however, has been almost eradicated by the agricultural improvements of the present century. Describing it the writer of the old Statistical Account of Scotland says, "Betwixt Oldtown and Hilltown lies a heath. On the north-

1. Statistical Account of Scotland, XVI., p. 364-65.

2. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 19.

west side of it, a wall and ditch run from north-east to south-west, about three-quarters of a mile along the slope of the hill," and from each end of this wall, and almost at right angles to it, "ramparts have been carried south-east towards the river Dee, which is about a mile distant from the angular points," but it is manifest that they had not been carried all the way to the river. "It is probable that there were then thickets and places of boschage on the river side, and they might have cut down trees to complete the barricade in these parts. At the north-east and south-west angles, there had been half-moon work constructed. The top of the bank is in some places eight or nine feet above the bottom of the ditch. In most places the height is about six feet, but in the course of centuries, much of the wall must have tumbled down, and much of the ditch must have been filled up."<sup>1</sup> The space enclosed comprehended about forty-eight Scotch acres, and being opposite to several fords of the river was doubtless intended to cover these. Various suggestions have been put forward as to the origin of the work ; some writers asserting that it had been thrown up by the Romans on one of their northern military expeditions against the Picts. Others argue that it is the site of Ptolemy's *Devana*, but more accurate research has shown that there is no foundation for such a statement. Some conclude that it is Norman, and found upon the

1. Statistical Account of Scotland, XVI., pp. 380-81.

fact that tradition has handed down its name as "Norman Dykes," that the lands adjacent are called the "Norman Faughs," and that a well close by the wall bears the title of the "Norman Well."<sup>1</sup> A hollow close by is still called the "Bloody Stripe," where it is traditionally said that a deadly battle was fought.

"Near the bridge over the Leuchar burn, at its junction with the Gormack, are the remains of a rampart, called the guard-dike. Tradition says that a strong guard of armed men was stationed here to prevent all communication between the sound and the infected, while the plague raged in Aberdeen and its environs in the middle of the seventeenth century."<sup>2</sup>

Upon the top of rising ground known as the Weather, or Wedder Craig, is the "Cupstone," indented in the shape of a bowl. It is commonly called the *Doupin' Stane*, from the fact that when the Magistrates of Aberdeen, in riding the outer marches of the City, arrive at this point, the old custom of *doupin'* the youngest burghess taking part in the ceremony is carefully observed.

Tradition has preserved few legends of interest, but the one regarding the Burn Treasure may be worth recording. The Culter Burn, before it reaches the Linn of Culter, runs through a romantic hollow known as the Linn Pot, and it being reported that there was hidden in this Pot a vast

1. Statistical Account of Scotland, XVI. pp. 380, 381.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 377.

store of silver, an old tenant of the farm of North Linn, who was noted for his parsimony, was seized with a strong desire to secure the treasure. His farm being near the spot alleged to contain the object of his greedy dreams, he stole out in the darkness of a wintry night intending to dam the river with beams of wood, and thus remove the treasure from the black depths of the emptied "Pot." While labouring with an energy sustained by visions of gain, he was startled by the cry that his farm was in flames, and rushed off to prevent the destruction of his humble effects, before making himself possessor of the precious metal. When he returned, alas! the dam had disappeared, and the water was again rushing over the pool in which, according to legend, the silver lies till this day.

When illicit distilling was rife in almost every part of Scotland, the parish of Peterculter was often the scene of sanguinary conflicts between daring smugglers and vigilant excisemen. Many a stirring tale could be told of struggles, seldom bloodless, between these parties, neither of whom were much afraid to meet death or take life. The proximity of the district to the city inevitably rendered it a frequent battle-ground between the representatives of the law and the evaders of it. As the great problem in smuggling was not so much to succeed in making whisky as successfully to dispose of it, the excisemen were ever careful to keep a watchful eye on the immediately surrounding districts of the town, so as to intercept the

smuggling bands on their way to the city, where they found a ready sale for their illegal wares. As Peterculter lay in the route of the western smugglers it received a large amount of attention from the officials of the excise.

One of the sharpest of smuggling encounters took place not far from the eastern extremity of the old parish. As it still lingers as one of the exciting memories of the locality, and the spot where it occurred is still pointed out with a certain feeling of awe by those who remember to have heard their fathers and mothers relate the story around the glowing fire in the dark and stormy nights of winter, it may not be unworthy of a place in these Annals.

On a day in the early part of this century, a band of smugglers from near Braemar set out on their journey to Aberdeen, with a view to turning into hard cash the liquid they had manufactured during the previous month or two. They were accompanied by a considerable number of friends who acted as scouts throughout the surrounding country—for special vigilance was necessary as the cargo was valuable, consisting, as it did, of no less than ten cart loads of whisky. Their departure was timed so that they might arrive at the outskirts of the city under the darkness of night, for, while far inland, the formidable smugglers were confident of either escaping detection by the widely posted officers of the law, or of giving a quick and satisfactory account of any feeble molesting parties. Near the

city, however, where the excisemen were thickly stationed, and in numbers equal to coping with the most numerous forces they were likely to encounter, it was extremely advisable that every favouring circumstance should be taken into account and utilised. All went well till they came to Culter, and here it seemed at first as if the powers of disorder were to lend their aid to the smugglers; for night fell black as death, and the thunder that had been growling fitfully among the distant hills began to roll in fearful grandeur over plain and valley. It rained as if the windows of heaven were opened. No eye could pierce the darkness beyond a finger length, except when the lightning flashed for a moment in the pitchy gloom, and lit up the awe-struck, yet determined, faces of the wild men of the hills. Surely only the direst necessity could bring any living being out into this arena of Nature's warfare. The superstitious Highlanders, though awed by the sublimity of the spectacle, yet felt strengthened by the belief that their passage into the city would be a safe and easy one.

The advanced scouts had reached Stonegavel Inn, where a bright light shining through the window arrested their attention. Cautiously approaching, they peered into the room, and there, with two pistols on the table before him, sat one who was known to almost every smuggler in the north, and whose name was feared and hated wherever the fame of his deeds of courage and daring had penetrated. The awe inspired by the commotion of the elements

was forgotten in presence of the fear of what this stern solitary figure foreboded—for it was none other than their relentless foe, Malcolm Gillespie. They needed no complicated process of reasoning to convince themselves that the myrmidons of the fearless gauger were not far from the spot. In a moment they were retracing their steps in eager haste to warn the approaching company of their danger. It was too late, however, for the gang had reached the place where the gaugers were concealed, and already the fray was hot and furious. The smugglers had the advantage in numbers but the disadvantage in arms, for their stout cudgels, however heartily wielded, were no match for the sabres of the excisemen. For long the battle raged, the curses of the infuriated combatants, and the howls and groans of the wounded being only momentarily drowned in the crash of the thunder-clap. The outnumbered gaugers speedily reinforced, and led on by their fierce commander, fought with the tenacity and courage of demons, while the sturdy Highlanders did not belie their reputation for bravery and strength. At last, however, the smugglers were vanquished, and their precious cargo, with the horses and the carts, were left in the hands of the excisemen. Many on both sides were seriously wounded, and at least one smuggler was killed outright. Not so many years ago one of the survivors of the gang used to exhibit, with no small pride, the wound-mark of a dagger that had been driven right through the

palm of his hand by the redoubtable leader of the excisemen himself.

Although compelled to denounce and condemn without stint the nefarious trade of smuggling with all its concomitant evils, one can scarcely stifle a rising regret that all the time and labour of these courageous men had only this deplorable result. While giving the highest credit to the officers of the law for their splendid pluck in the exercise of a profession that gained them almost universal detestation, and led them into constant danger of their very lives, we feel supremely proud and thankful that gallant bravery, such as that of the smuggling men of the mist in the Culter affray and others of its kind, has in other and later times not merely given a theme to writers of parochial history, but has been displayed in defence of the dearest liberties of our country, and will for ever remain among the annals of our national glory.

#### ESTATE OF CULTER.

PART of the lands of Culter belonged to Alan the Durward, Justiciary of Scotland, but in 1247, Alexander II. bestowed "Culter and Ardboik," as also the lands of "Tulimaboythre," upon Robert, son of Allan Wauchope.<sup>1</sup>

During the wars of the Scottish Independence

1. Nisbet's *Heraldry*, II., App. 56.



the last-named family suffered severely—being not only deprived of the office referred to, but having certain of their estates confiscated to the Crown. The name of Robert de Wauchope is included in the list of Scotch barons who, in 1296, swore fealty to Edward I. Soon afterwards Philip Cumin, son of Jardine Cumin of Inverallochy, in the parish of Rathen, a branch of the Earls of Buchan who bore that name, married Marjory Wauchope, daughter and heiress of Sir Adam Wauchope of Culter. In this way the lands of Culter passed to the Cumins, who continued in uninterrupted possession for about four hundred years.

Philip Cumin was succeeded by his son William Cumin, who would appear to have had the honour of knighthood. He married Marjory, daughter of James, Earl of Douglas.<sup>1</sup> His successors, of whom a list of thirteen is given in "*Nisbet's Heraldry*," married into the best families in the country, and had considerable influence in the north, although their names do not appear prominently in the records of the stirring events which took place prior to the Union. They seem to have retained a proprietary interest in the lands of Inverallochy till 1483, when Alexander Cumin resigned these lands, together with the castle and lake in the barony of Kynedward,<sup>2</sup> in favour of his uncle, Alexander Irvine of Drum. Another branch of the Cumin family got a grant of these lands immediately afterwards.

1. *Nisbet's Heraldry*, p. 56.

2. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, IV., p. 130.

In 1494 William Cumin, designed as of Inverallochy, was the pursuer in an action against Alexander Cumin of Culter for the "wrangwis detencioune and withaldin fra him of the malez and proffites of the lands of the Herne and Drumquhirny" (the Hern and Drumfrennie). Simultaneously Archibald, Earl of Angus, was prosecuting the laird of Culter on the same charge respecting the lands of "Arbady and Inchmerlach" (Arbeadie and Inchmarlo).

In 1537 James Cumin of Culter was one of the assize on the celebrated trial of the Master of Forbes for treasonable conspiracy against the King's life, and for plotting the destruction of the Scotch army at Jedburgh; and, in 1580, Archibald Cumin, fiar of Culter, was also one of the assize on the trial of Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh for the murder of the Regent Moray.

During the sixteenth century the family seem to have suffered heavy financial losses, while several of the lairds were very extravagant and wasteful in their living. Tradition asserts that the knight of the period was present at Queen Mary's marriage, and, in the procession which took place on that festive occasion, had his horse shod with silver shoes, so slightly fastened on that, when he made the animal caracole, the shoes fell off and were picked up by the crowd. It is not surprising that in the hands of one thus dominated by extravagant vanity, the resources of the estate should have suffered serious diminution.

Sir Alexander Cumin, the proprietor in 1635, is described by Gordon as having been "a gentleman whose meanes and estate held no proportion with his old descent, which made him capable of far greater estate than any that he possessd."<sup>1</sup> He was the author of a brief poem on the death of Bishop Patrick Forbes of Corse, which thus concludes :—

"Though in few acts man could abridge his playes :

In manie schens divyded are his dayes.

Since then wee see the tapers doe decay,

(When 't's dark) the candlesticke may be a prey."

During the wars of the Covenanters Sir Alexander and his family were subjected to considerable persecution. In June, 1640, he was taken prisoner by General Munro, and, along with certain other Aberdeenshire lairds, carried to Edinburgh, where "they war all wairdit in the tolbuith." They were subsequently "accusit as contrarie to the good causs." After being kept in prison for "the space of six monethis to thair gryt displeour and hurt to thair helth" they were at last liberated on payment of heavy fines.<sup>2</sup> Four years later powers were granted by the Scottish Parliament to Lord Fraser to uplift the rents pertaining to Cumin, who, in the commission is described as "a malignant," and as having "joyned with Irish rebels and unnatural cuntriemen in this present rebellion."<sup>3</sup>

1. Gordon's *Scots Affairs*, III., p. 199.

2. Spalding's *Trubles*, I., p. 286.

3. Acts of Parliament of Scotland.

Sir Alexander Cumin, the fourteenth laird, was in 1672 created a baronet of Nova Scotia. He married a daughter of Alexander Swinton of Mersington, who was co-heiress of Puckle Church in Gloucestershire. In 1696 he was allowed to take the oath of allegiance,<sup>1</sup> and nine years later he laid claims to the office of conservator.<sup>2</sup> In 1707 an Act of Parliament was passed in favour of him and his heirs, empowering them to hold fairs upon the Muir of Beinshill on the second Thursday of March and October, annually, "for all kinds of vendible commodities," authority being given under the same Act to uplift the "haill profites, tolls, customs, . . . . and to proclaim and ryde the sd fairs."<sup>3</sup>

Alexander Cumin, the eldest son, who succeeded to the estate, passed as an advocate in Edinburgh, and had a remarkable career. After being in business for a brief period, he was induced to quit the legal profession on a pension of Three hundred pounds per annum being assigned to him by the Government. Objections were taken to the continuance of the annuity, and it was cancelled in 1721. Eight years later, in consequence of a dream of his wife (Anna, daughter of Lancelot Whitehall, Commissioner of the Customs for Scotland), he undertook a voyage to America, with the object of visiting the Cherokee Indians. On 3rd April, 1730,

1. Acts of Parliament of Scotland.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 19.

in a general meeting of chiefs he was crowned their commander and chief ruler. Returning to England with six Indian chiefs, he presented them to George the Second at Windsor, when he laid his crown at his Majesty's feet, the chiefs at the same time also doing homage. He propounded certain schemes for the establishment of banks in America and other places, connecting them with the restoration of the Jews, for which, he argued, the appointed time had arrived, he himself being alluded to in various passages of scripture as their deliverer. Finding that the Government officials would not listen to his wild projects, he proposed, on his own account, to open a subscription for Five hundred thousand pounds for the purpose of establishing these banks, and settling three hundred thousand Jewish families among the Cherokee mountains. All his schemes proving futile, he turned his attention to the study of alchemy, and began to try experiments on the transmutation of metals. Being deeply involved in debt, he was supported chiefly by the contributions of his friends. In 1766 he was appointed a pensioner in the Charter House, London, where he died at an advanced age. His son, who had succeeded him in his title, was for some time a captain in the army, but became insane and died in indigence.<sup>1</sup> The title thereupon became extinct.

Patrick Duff of Premnay, the fourth son of

1. Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, I., p. 742.

Patrick Duff of Craigston, had lent large sums on the security of the lands of Culter, and, the conditions of loan not having been implemented by the borrower, Mr. Duff acquired the lands and barony of Culter, under an Extract Decree of Sale of the Court of Session, dated 15th July, 1729.<sup>1</sup> He is described as having been "much conversant in business during the whole course of his life, and was a very sensible and agreeable man."<sup>2</sup> He married his cousin Margaret, only daughter of William Duff of Braco, but they had no family. By his deed of settlement he left the estate of Culter to his brother, Admiral Robert Duff, and his heirs, but subject to the disposition of his wife, should she survive him. Mr. Duff died in October, 1763, and, on 25th December, 1768, his widow married, as her second husband, Alexander Udney of that ilk, eldest son of John Udney of Udney and Lady Martha Udney, daughter of George, first Earl of Aberdeen, Chancellor of Scotland. Mr. Udney passed as an advocate in 1728, and fourteen years later became a Commissioner of Excise for Scotland.

Admiral Duff had a distinguished career. He was Commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean squadron for several years, and in that capacity successfully defended Gibraltar during the memorable siege in 1779. For his signal services he had

1. Title Deeds of Estate.

2. Memoirs of the Duffs, pp. 103-4.

added to his armorial bearings two sailors as supporters, and George III. had his portrait painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds for Greenwich Hospital. Had he lived a little longer he was to have been made a baronet. He was married, first, to Helen Duff, daughter of the first Earl of Fife, and secondly, to Jane Abercromby, widow of George Morison of Haddo, and eldest daughter and heiress of General James Abercromby of Glassaugh. He acquired Fetteresso about 1782, and settling down there took a great interest in the property. It was there that he had his first and probably last meeting with Burns. Encountering the poet, who was angling in the Carron without leave, he put the peremptory question, "Sir, who gave you authority to fish in my water?" The poet threw his fishing rod down the stream and rejoined:—

Your fish are scarce,  
Your water's sma',  
There's my rod  
And Rob's awa'!<sup>1</sup>

Admiral Duff died in 1787, and was buried in a very fine tomb at Culter.

Mrs. Udny, who retained the surname of Duff, with a view to "keeping up the memory" of her father, in 1791 mortified Six thousand merks scots, the annual income from which she directed should be applied towards the board and maintenance at

1. Peter's *Baronage*, p. 79.

King's College, Aberdeen, of two or more young men bearing the name of, or related to, or connected with the family.<sup>1</sup> She died two years later at the age of eighty, leaving the lands of Culter to James, Earl of Fife ; but no title to the estate having been made up, her right to dispoise was challenged, and, after a prolonged and expensive litigation, the House of Lords decided in favour of the claim of Robert William Duff of Fetteresso, son of Admiral Duff by his first wife Helen Duff. He was a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Forfarshire Militia, and in 1789 married Mary, only child of George Morison of Haddo. Dying in March, 1834, he was succeeded in the estates of Fetteresso and Culter by his son Robert William Duff, who died 30th December, 1861, aged seventy one years.

He was succeeded by his nephew Robert William Duff, son of his brother Arthur Duff of Glassaugh, who assumed the surname of *Abercromby* and married Elizabeth, daughter of John Innes of Cowie. Mr. R. W. Duff, who is proprietor of Fetteresso, Glassaugh, and Culter, married, in 1871, Louisa, third daughter of the late Sir William Scott of Ancrum, Bart., who was for a lengthened period M.P. for Roxburghshire. Mr. Duff has himself had the honour of representing Banffshire in Parliament for the last thirty one years.

The mansion house, which stands about one mile north-east of Culter Railway Station, and is

I. Deed of Mortification.



surrounded by some lofty old trees, is supposed to have been erected about two hundred and fifty years ago by Sir Alexander Cumin. The arms of the Cumins appear on the front wall, supported by two ostriches, crest a garb, motto *Courage*. Baird of Auchmedden describes the building as being "one of the most beautiful and best finished gentlemen's seats in the north," but it has latterly suffered through the non-residence of the proprietor.

The lands and estate of Culter, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, embraced the baronies of Culter and Tuliboy, but the Cumins had the whole converted into one barony, under the distinctive title of "Culter Cumyng," with the manor place of Culter as the principal messuage. In 1676 the lands within the last-named barony were described as including "the dominical lands of Mains of Culter, including the tower and fort thereof, Insh of Culter with the salmon fishings on the river Dee, Robertson, Hillside, and Tulloch (Tillyoch), the meal mill called the Hollmill, the fullers' mill called the Denmill, Over Contlaw, Nether Contlaw, Ranishill, and Lachts."<sup>1</sup> The estate was re-arranged during the next century—some parts being sold, other lands, including Glasterberry, which originally formed part of the barony of Murtle, being attached.

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 345.

## DRUM PROPERTY.

THE proprietor of Drum owns a large and rich agricultural tract in this parish, embracing the lands of Auguston, Kennerty, Linn, and Leuchar.

Auguston, on which there are several granite quarries, was originally included in the lordship of Drum, and in 1501, James VI. granted confirmation of a charter by Andrew Liell, treasurer of the Cathedral of Aberdeen, executor of Alexander Lindsay designed as formerly rector of Belhelvie, granting to the chaplains and choristers of the said Cathedral an annual feu-duty of Ten merks from these lands.<sup>1</sup> The annual feu-duty or rent, referred to, had been sold to the executor by Alexander Irvine of Drum, in 1495.<sup>2</sup>

Kennerty, originally *Ceann-arde*, which signifies "the head of the small height," was in ancient times a barony, and, according to the writer of the old Statistical Account of the parish, was so named from the ancient seat of the barons, which stood on the top of a small eminence at the extremity of higher ground. According to the same authority, the lands, which contained four or five ploughs, formed the south division of the parish. In 1482, Thomas Gordon had a charter from James III. of these lands, which had previously belonged to Thomas Hay, and four years later Gordon had

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 346.

2. *Registrum Episcopatus I.*, p. 335.

another charter of adjoining ground, which had belonged to Alexander Irvine of Drum. In 1534, Thomas Gordon, son of the said Thomas Gordon, and Margaret Forbes, his wife, had a crown charter of the same lands. In 1548, Mary Queen of Scots gave a charter to John Gordon and Janet Lindsay of these lands, as also of the adjoining fishings in the river Dee.

#### ESTATE OF COUNTESSWELLS.

THIS estate, which includes the lands of Gardin (now Gairn) and Brutherfield, lies in the north-east of the parish of Peterculter.

Gardin was formerly a place of considerable importance, and is believed to have got its title from the family who bore that surname. In the sixteenth century George Gardin was frequently designed as of Gardin, or of his other property of Banchory. Prior to the period stated, a number of dwelling-houses, which practically formed a hamlet, stood on the property, but they have since disappeared.

Countesswells was originally embraced within the freedom lands of Aberdeen, and by charter dated 26th June, 1613, the provost, baillies, council and community of the burgh granted to John Leyth (Leith) of Montgarrie, near Alford, Burgess

of Aberdeen, the lands of "Countesswells, Gardyn and Brutherfield."<sup>1</sup> The grant was confirmed by James VI., under charter dated at Edinburgh on the 11th February, 1615.<sup>2</sup>

By 1650 the combined properties had passed to Alexander Burnett, second son of Burnett of Leys. He was for some time a baillie of Aberdeen, and took considerable interest in the municipal affairs of the city. With his daughter Marjory, who married James Sandilands of Cotton, he gave a marriage portion of One hundred thousand merks. Sandilands was a man of note in his day. He acted as Town and Commissary Clerk of Aberdeen, as also Professor of Philosophy, thereafter of Law, in King's College, Aberdeen. He had the honour of delivering an address of welcome on the occasion of the visit of Charles II. in 1650, which so favourably impressed the King that, after the Restoration, His Majesty elected him one of the Senators of the College of Justice. Unfortunately, however, he died a few days before the letter of appointment arrived.

The eldest son, Patrick Sandilands, succeeded as laird of Cotton, while the second son, John, became laird of Countesswells. The latter married, first, . . . Arbuthnot, daughter of . . . Arbuthnot. By her he had a son, James, who was trained as a merchant, but unhappily was drowned at sea in 1713-14. He married, as his second wife, Anne

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, IV., p. 542.

2. Reg. Mag. Sig., lib. XLVII., No. 259.

Udny, daughter of John Udny, by whom he had two sons and one daughter. He was for some time Provost of Aberdeen.

The eldest son, John Sandilands, who succeeded as proprietor of Countesswells, married Jean Forbes, daughter of Thomas Forbes of Waterton.

By 1750 the lands were acquired by Alexander Livingston, who also bought the adjoining estate of Cults. He was at first a merchant in Aberdeen, of which city he was provost for two years, 1750-51. In the following year he became a partner of the firm of Milne Cruden & Company, linen manufacturers, Porthill. The venture proved unsuccessful, and Livingston became liable for a heavy amount. He, therefore, sold off his whole belongings, including the estates of Countesswells and Cults, and with the proceeds satisfied the creditors, who, to mark their appreciation of his conduct, presented him with a handsome dinner service with his arms painted upon them. He went over to Rotterdam, where, entering into mercantile business, he speedily amassed a fortune.

In the end of last century Countesswells and Cults, as also Bieldside, were owned by James Burnett, who built the mansion house of Countesswells. Regarding it the author of the *General Description of the East Coast of Scotland* says that, "though situated in the midst of a wild moorland country, it is extremely pleasant. The house, a genteel modern building, stands in the middle of a fine lawn within the same general enclosure with

the garden and pleasure ground, and is well sheltered by wood."<sup>1</sup>

John Burnett, son of the preceding proprietor, succeeded, and in the early years of the present century began to dispose of the estate, Bielside going to William Corbet, supervisor of Excise, and Cults to George Symmers, cloth merchant in Aberdeen.

In 1811 James Gammell, bank agent in Greenock and proprietor of Drumtochty in Fording, acquired Countesswells, which included Gairn and Brutherfield. He married Janet Giels, and died at Drumtochty Castle, on 15th September, 1825, aged 89.

The present proprietor of Countesswells and Drumtochty is the Rev. James Stewart Gammell.

#### CULTER PAPER WORKS.

IN the year 1750, an Englishman of the name of Bartholomew Smith, recognising the superior advantages which Culter possessed as a site for a paper manufactory, leased from Patrick Duff of Culter, for a period of one hundred and fourteen years, the Waulkmill of Craigton, on the banks of the Culter burn, and having had the same converted into a paper mill, commenced operations on the 1st January following. The business was the first

1. Douglas's *East Coast of Scotland*, p. 259.

of its kind in the north of Scotland, but the annual output was very small on account of the limited means of transport then existing. The work was continued by Mr. Smith's two sons, Richard and Lewis Smith,\* who, according to the writer of the old Statistical Account of the parish, usually employed six men in the different departments. The same writer states that "formerly they manufactured superfine paper, and paper for notes to the Aberdeen Bank," and that he himself had written upon fine post paper, manufactured at the mill, equal in quality to any he had ever seen.

In 1820 the business was acquired by Alexander Irvine of Old Aberdeen, who entered into partnership, and carried it on under the title of "Alexander Irvine & Company" till 1837, when it was purchased by Messrs. Arbuthnot and McCombie, who enlarged the mills so considerably that, in 1840, they were giving employment to sixty people.

In 1856 Messrs. Pirie of Stoneywood took over the concern, but in 1865 sold it to the Culter Mills

\*A tombstone erected over the grave of Lewis Smith in the churchyard of Peterculter bears the following epitaph :—

WHILE MANLY BEAUTY IN MERIDIAN BLOOM,  
UNTIMELY HAST'NING TO THE GHASTLY TOMB,  
CALLS FROM THE EYE THE SYMPATHETIC TEAR ;  
PAUSE, FRIEND, AND SHED THE MOURNFUL TRIBUTE HERE.  
IF SOCIAL MANNERS, WITH A TASTE REFIN'D,  
IF STERLING WORTH, WITH UNASSUMING MIND,  
IF FILIAL TENDERNESS POSSESS A CHARM,  
IF STEADY FRIENDSHIP CAN YOUR BOSOM WARM,  
THEN, READER, IMITATE, APPLAUD, REVERE  
WHAT TRIUMPH'D IN THE MAN THAT'S BURIED HERE.

Paper Company (Limited). At that time the weekly production was about fifteen tons, but through very extensive additions to the works and an entire renewal of plant, it is now nearly sixty tons.

The mills are considered amongst the most complete of their kind in the United Kingdom, no expense having been spared in making both buildings and machinery perfect. The manufactures of the Company are everywhere noted for their excellence of quality and variety of style. The business gives employment to upwards of three hundred workpeople of both sexes, the most of whom are accommodated in commodious dwellings erected by the Company on their own ground.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

IN the end of last century the Schoolmaster's salary was only £5 11s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per annum, with certain small fees added ; but through the influence of the parish Minister it was augmented to £8 6s. 8d., in addition to which £1 14s. 2d. was allowed from a fund of Two hundred merks left in 1644 by Sir Alexander Cumin of Culter, and another small sum from a fund left by Patrick Duff of Culter, both for teaching a specified description of scholars. By a rule established at the same time, the quarterly fees of scholars were



fixed at One shilling and sixpence for English, Two shillings with Writing or Arithmetic added, and Two shillings and sixpence for Latin.

In 1792 the average attendance of scholars in summer was forty-five, and in autumn and winter sixty.

The parish, like most country parishes, occasionally had teachers who were educated and mentally endowed above the humble requirements of their situation. One of them, who may be said to have been notorious rather than famous, had for a long time considerable local notoriety, and as he used his own failings and consequent misfortunes to point a moral for others, a slight notice of him may not be unacceptable, especially to those whose memories carry them back to those days, not yet remote, when his poem, from which we afterwards quote, was never wanting in the itinerant ballad vendor's list, nor failed to find a ready hearing among the country folks of Lower Deeside.

On 15th November, 1724, William Forbes, M.A., entered on the offices of session clerk and precentor, and at the following Whitsunday became parish schoolmaster. Matters appear to have gone smoothly enough for some time, but being fonder of sport than of teaching, and being otherwise injudicious, he soon began to gain a reputation inconsistent with his profession. On the 2nd January, 1732, the Minister reported that Forbes had "turned his back upon his office, one which acct he was not again to be received," and the

heritors having "recommended Mr. William Mories for the sd office," the Session appointed him accordingly. On the 23rd of the same month the creditors of Forbes arrested, in the hands of the Session, Ten guineas of salary due to him. A year later he acknowledged the paternity of a child by Margaret Forbes, servant at Brutherfield, for which he was summoned to appear before the Session, but it latterly came out that he had "gone off a recruit to Ireland," so that the Session were obliged to sist further procedure in the case. Nothing further is told of the fate of Forbes after he left Deeside, but sometime about 1746 there appeared a poetical account from his own pen of his Peterculter escapades—"The Dominie Depos'd, or some reflections of his Intrigue with a young lass, and what happened thereupon; Interspersed with advice to all Schoolmasters, Precentors, and Dominies on Deeside. By William Forbes, A.M., late Schoolmaster at Peterculter." The piece enjoyed great local popularity for a long time, and was a staple article of trade with the chapbook makers in the end of last century, who sent edition after edition of it broadcast over the north. The breadth of treatment, which was then a main element in the humour of popular rustic verse, and which made it sell, keeps it now among the curiosities of local vagrant literature.<sup>1</sup> The following verses will give a fair indication of the general quality of the piece :—

1. Walker's *Bards of Bon-Accord*, p. 214.

For hark I'll tell you what they think,  
Since I left handling pen and ink,  
Wae worth that weary sup of drink

He lik'd so weel !

He drank it a' left not a clink

His throat to sweel.

Then was it not a grand presumption,  
To call him Doctor of the function ?  
He dealt too much in barley-unction

For his profession ;

He never took a good injunction

Frae kirk or session.

And to attend he was not willing  
His school, sae lang's he had a shilling,  
Bat lov'd to be where there was filling  
Good punch or ale ;

For him to rise was just like killing

Or first to fail.

His fishing-wand, his snishin-box,  
A fowling-piece to shoot muir-cocks,  
And hunting hares thro' craigs and rocks,

This was his game ;

Still kept the young anes, so the fox

Might worry them.

When he committed all these tricks,  
For which he well deserv'd his licks,  
With red-coats he did intermix,

When he foresaw

The punishment the kirk inflicts

On fouks that fa'.

Then to his thrift he bid adieu,  
 When with his tail he stap'd his mou',  
 He chang'd his coat to red and blue  
   And, like a sot,  
 Did the poor clerk convert into  
   A *Royal Scot*.

In 1770 the schoolmaster was George Skene Keith, a lineal descendant of Alexander Keith, third son of the second Earl Marischal. Having qualified for the ministry, he was presented to the parish of Keith-hall and Kinkell, and subsequently to Tulliallan in Perthshire. He had the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen, and will be long remembered by his book on the "Agriculture of Aberdeenshire," published in 1811.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

(*St. Peter, the Apostle.*)

THE Parish Church, which was originally dedicated to St. Peter, the Apostle, was bestowed upon the Abbey and Monks of St. Mary of Kelso, about 1165-99. The gift was afterwards confirmed by Mathew, Bishop of Aberdeen, within whose diocese the church was situated.<sup>1</sup> It is rated in the Old Taxation at 54s. 4d.<sup>2</sup>

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 16.

2. *Ibid.*

On 16th October, 1673, "the fabrick of the kirk fell to the ground,"<sup>1</sup> but being temporarily repaired the church did service till 1779, when a new church, capable of accommodating 550 people, was erected. The date of 1779 is upon the building, and a slab built into the north wall of the churchyard, initialled M. J.K., and dated 1715, commemorates the incumbency of the Rev. John Kennedy, who was minister from 1704 to 1723.

In 1793 the stipend was £38 5s. 3d. stg., with 39½ bolls of oatmeal and 8½ bolls of bear.<sup>2</sup> In 1812 it was augmented to £113 8s. 2d. in money, with 54 bolls, 2 firlots, 2½ lippies meal, and 51 bolls, 3 firlots bear.<sup>3</sup>

The communion utensils include two goblets, or cups of silver, two pattens, or breadplates of hard pewter, two flagons of white metal, two collection plates of pewter, and one baptismal basin, which is never used. The two cups are of chaste design, and bear the Duff arms, with the motto *Virtute et opera* in scroll, over right hand holding a shell. Underneath are the two monograms, H. D. and M. U. D., the one above the other. Unfortunately no reference is made in the kirk session records as to how these valuable cups became the property of the kirk session; but as the first monogram represents the initials of Helen Duff, and the second those of Margaret Udny Duff, the articles

1. Session Records,

2. Old Statistical Account, vol., XVI., p. 368.

3. Statistical Account of Aberdeenshire, p. 113.

had, doubtless, been presented by the Duff family in memory of these ladies. The plate marks are a lion passant, leopard's head crowned — Roman capital O, king's head, and maker's initials C. H. From these Hall marks we know that the cups were made in London in the year 1809.

## MINISTERS.

1239-40. *Alanus de Soletre*, Vicar. He had probably been an ecclesiastic of the monastery of Soutra, in Lothian, and was presented by the Abbot of Kelso to the vicarage of the church of Culter in 1239.<sup>1</sup>

. . . . .  
. . . . .

1420. Sir John Yule, Rector.<sup>2</sup> An interesting account is given in the "Memorials of the Family of Skene of Skene," of his interrogation when grievously sick, eight days before his death, regarding the lands of Easter Skene, &c.<sup>3</sup>

. . . . .  
. . . . .

1567. Alexander Robertson, Reader.<sup>4</sup> He had a salary of 16 lib per annum.

1585. Richard Ross, Minister, having "Dilmaok"

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 16.

2. Collections, *Aberdeen and Banff*, I. p. 353.

3. Skene of Skene, p. 19.

4. Collections, *Aberdeen and Banff*, I., p. 230.

also in charge. He removed permanently to the latter in 1599.

1593. William Meldrum, Vicar. On 6th April of this year, in his capacity of "perpetual vicar of Peterculter, and superintendent of the singing in the Cathedral of Aberdeen," he granted a foundation for an annual rent of Eighty-seven florins and Ten stivers of Brabant for the support and education of four bursars in the University of Aberdeen, but only in the event of the restoration of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

1590. William Wallace, Reader till 1599. Having begun teaching and continuing "dailie to increase in learning be studie" he exhorted, 10th August of the latter year, and was appointed to be enrolled 4th December, 1601, according to the ordinance of last Provincial Assembly. In 1602, he had for stipend 100 merks (£5 11s. 6½d. stg.), was admonished 7th March, 1608, "to giff himselff mair diligentlie to his studies," and demitted previous to 10th December, 1612, being succeeded by his son William.<sup>2</sup>

1612. William Wallace, son of the preceding, was presented to the charge, and continued as Minister for at least twenty-two years.<sup>3</sup> In November, 1633, he was entered as holding a wadset upon the lands of "Hiltoun of Kennertie."<sup>4</sup>

1. Records *University and King's College*, p. 134.

2. Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 512.

3. *Ibid.*

4. Miscellany Spalding Club, III., p. 137.

163--. Francis Thomson, successor. Having refused to subscribe the Covenant, he fled, along with certain other Ministers, to His Majesty in England, but returned to Aberdeen, 2nd June, 1639.<sup>1</sup>

16—. Alexander Garioch. He was for many years Minister of Cushnie, and acted as Alford Presbytery Clerk in 1633-34. He was a member of the Commission of Assembly 1646, and was translated to Peterculter before 1651. He got an augmentation of stipend on 22nd February, 1665, and died between 18th November and 23rd December, 1673.<sup>2</sup>

16—. Andrew Garioch, son of the preceding, succeeded as assistant and successor. He was a student at King's College in 1647, and, being duly licensed, was ordained prior to 27th October, 1663.<sup>3</sup>

1674. John Irvine, translated from Kilmalcolm, and inducted on 11th January of this year. He was deprived in 1695 for non-jurancy, and intruded at Inch six years later. He purchased the lands of Saphock, and married Janet, youngest daughter of the Rev. Robert Birnie, Minister of Lanark, by whom he had a son, Alexander, and a daughter, who became the wife of the proprietor of Barns.<sup>4</sup>

1697. Alexander Thomson ordained 14th April, 1697, but deposed 6th October, 1703, for lying, negligence, and other faults. In the libel served

1. Spalding's Trubles, vol. I., p. 199.

2. Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 512.

3. Presbytery and Synod Records.

4. *Ibid*, and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 512.



upon him the following charges were included. "*Primo.* Mr. Alexander Thomson is guilty of scandalous churlishness and inhospitality . . . evidence by hiding himself when he saw strangers coming to his house, . . . by refusing entertainment and lodging, even to such of his acquaintances as craved it of him, and thereby exposed them to several inconveniences, particularly to Mr. William Carnegie, who, having preached at Drumoak on a Sabbath-day in winter last, came to Thomson's house expecting entertainment and lodging, it being late, and the night very stormy and cold, yet he carried so inhumanely towards him that he was obliged to take some meat for his refreshment at the schoolmaster's. *Secundo.*

He is of a most niggardly and parsimonious nature, in so much that, though he hath enjoyed a good benefice, and got good prices for his victuall in the late years of dearth, yet he utterly neglected to provide himself of a competent library . . .

*Quarto.* He is guilty of the unchristian neglect of the worship of God in his family, particularly since he got that trouble in his leg, having not so much as prayer in his family from one Sabbath to another ; witnesses Andrew Ross and his other servants, and owned by himself to some of the members of Presbytery, pretending that his leg was to be dressed at the time when he should have had family worship. He is guilty of laziness, sloath, idleness, and unconcernedness in his ministerial work, to the dishonour of God, and the disgrace of the ministerie, as

appeareth by his lying in bed till eleven or twelve of the clock when in perfect health, and by his neglect to preach in his house on the Sabbath for many weeks together . . . and even of late when he made some fashion of preaching, yet he did not rise out of his bed . . . And being one night at Crathis, and desired to pray in the family, they complained that it was rather a mockery than prayer ; for they were not well got to their knees till he ended, having uttered a few sentences ; and by his unedifying discourses, particularly in preaching in Luke, ch. viii., vv. 22, 23, or a parallele place, he only showed what good or evil the wind did to earthly things, in breaking down people's corns, biggings, and other like effects of it, but spake nothing that was spiritually edifying, which occasioned severalls to go away laughing, calling it the 'windy preaching' to this day. *Nono.* He is guilty of superstitious observances, of frets, and omens, saying that he knew some evil would befall him that day that he fell and hurt his leg, for his right-foot shoe would not go on, and he was going to burn it ; that he went out without his hat, and saw a black man in the sun ; that his dog would not follow him, and that he met a barefooted child."<sup>1</sup>

1704. John Kennedy graduated at the University and King's College, Aberdeen, in 1697, licensed by the Presbytery of Perth, July, 1701, called to Peterculter 6th August, 1704, and ordained on 28th Sep-

1. Presbytery Records.

tember following. He died on 18th October, 1723, aged forty-nine years.<sup>1</sup>

1724. William Thomson graduated at Aberdeen in April, 1718, licensed by the Presbytery there in 1723, and ordained 1st October, 1724. He died on 23rd November, 1727, aged about thirty years.<sup>2</sup>

1728 Patrick Black, licensed by the Presbytery of Paisley in August, 1725, ordained at Peterculter on 10th October, 1728. He died on 11th June, 1766.<sup>3</sup>

1767. William Duff, who for the previous twelve years had been Minister of Glenbucket, was presented to Peterculter in the autumn of 1766, and admitted on 4th March following. In 1774 he was presented to Foveran, where he died, father of the Synod, 23rd February, 1815, in the eighty-third year of his age, and sixtieth of his ministry.<sup>4</sup>

1775. George Mark, a native of Banff, graduated at Aberdeen in 1756, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Dundee in April, 1763. He was presented to Kirkhill parish in Inverness-shire by George III. in 1770, but opposed on account of his deficiency in the Gaelic language. The case was brought before the General Assembly of the following year, when it was remitted to the Presbytery for trial of his knowledge of the Gaelic language. The case came up in the succeeding

1. Session Records and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., 513.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. Presbytery and Session Records, and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., pp. 513 and 608.

year, when it was reported "that for the short time he has applied to it, he seems to understand the principles thereof, and that in a short time he will be fully capable to teach them to a Gaelic congregation if he continue the diligence he has hitherto done." It was then referred to a Commission, which, on 2nd June, 1772, unanimously found that the presentee "not being sufficiently possessed of the Gaelic language, is not qualified to be minister of that parish," and he was thereupon set aside. He was presented to Peterculter in July, 1775, ordained on 17th August of the same year, and died on 23rd December, 1811.<sup>1</sup>

1812. John Stirling, a native of Dunblane, was licensed by the Presbytery of Fordoun on 3rd July, 1811, and ordained at Peterculter on 17th September, 1812. He died on 5th October, 1839, in the 54th year of his age.<sup>2</sup>

1840. Robert Thomson, who succeeded, was ordained on 22nd April, 1840. At the disruption he threw in his lot with the Free Church party, and formally demitted on 14th June, 1843. He died on 13th January, 1845.<sup>3</sup>

1843. Thomas Barclay, who had for some time held a charge in Lerwick, was admitted on 14th September, 1843. He was translated to Currie in the Presbytery of Edinburgh, on 11th July, 1844, and

1. Presbytery and Session Records and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 513.

2. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 19, and Separate Register of Presbytery.

3. Separate Register of Presbytery.

in 1849 had the degree of D.D. from the University and King's College, Aberdeen. In 1857 he became Principal of the University of Glasgow, and died in 1873.<sup>1</sup>

1844. John Allan, ordained on 19th September of this year. He was a native of Banffshire, and for sometime acted as tutor to a wealthy Quaker family, thereafter holding the classical mastership of Elgin Academy. He was for many years Presbytery clerk of Aberdeen, and died 25th January, 1888.

1888. James Aird ordained on 7th June of this year.

#### SESSION RECORDS.

THESE records, which extend to eleven volumes, commence of date, January, 1674, and run on consecutively to the present time. They give a remarkable insight into the customs and habits of the people during the last two centuries. They also show the power and influence wielded by the ministers and elders of former times, and how thoroughly the various parochial duties were performed. As the guardian of public morals the Session vigorously corrected the unsabbatical, slanderous, amorous, and blasphemous tendencies of certain of the parishioners. There are numerous

##### I. Separate Register of Presbytery.

entries in the books referring to the then very serious crime of Sabbath-breaking, and woe to the parties who even absented themselves from divine service. On 9th Sept., 1677, "the minister observing several absent from the church, did call the roll, when two farmers and their wives with several other absentees ordered to be summoned before the Session." On the following Sunday the accused "compeared and pled that being wearied with work all the week, they were not able to travel to the church which lies at so great a distance from them. This excuse was not sustained, and the Session revived their old act, that persons absenting themselves from the parish church without a lawful excuse should pay 6/8 scots of penalty, as also to appear before the pulpit." Keeping unseasonable hours, scolding and flyting, wife-beating, fighting, rioting, drinking and playing cards, to say nothing of the scandal of neglecting to attend the diets of examination, were offences which were summarily dealt with. As an encouragement to the salmon fishers, who seem to have frequently given offence by commencing the labours of the week before the Sunday had expired, it was arranged in 1767, that the church bell should be rung every Sunday at midnight as a signal to commence. "Not guilty but don't do it again" would seem to have been a favourite form of sessional sentence. 19th June, 1709, "one of the elders reporting that Thomas Rob's kiln was smoking this morning, and that he and his people seemed to be drying victuall, Rob is

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ordered to be summoned." Subsequently comparing and denying the charge the same was abandoned, but "Rob was exhorted to be more circumspect in future." The kirk session had evidently difficulty in dealing with the persistent church-going habits of the "dogs," and a stop had to be put to the canine enthusiasm for public worship by a policy of blood and iron. 6th February, 1743, "all entreaties to have the dogs kept at home having failed, the Session resolved to appoint a dog officer, at a salary of 2d. off each day's collection." Tongs for officer's use ordered to be made. 23rd February, 1746, on account of the negligence of John Marr, the dog officer, in keeping out the dogs, it was resolved to have him deposed. A successor was duly appointed, and in this connection it is said that the following story, told by the late Rev. Dr. Paul in his *Past and Present of Aberdeenshire*, had its origin in Peterculter. The Minister, being annoyed by a dog during the delivery of his sermon, and being unable to bear it any longer, said to the beadle, "Peter, man, canna you put out that dog?" "Na," said Peter, "he winna gang oot, sir." "Canna ye clip him then?" said the Minister. "Na, sir," said Peter, "I canna dee't, he's a terrible surly-like beast, an I'm fear't at him."

Gales, storms, and remarkable events occurring in the parish are carefully described. 26th September, 1675, "owing to a most grievous shaking wind, which continued two days, doing great

damage to the corns, the Minister preached upon Job, I., 21." 18th August, 1689, "the people being feared, by reason of the Highlanders and soldiers plundering the country, the Minister began to preach once a day." 26th October, 1690, "no Session because the day was rainy." 10th July, 1779, "Kennerty's two servants struck down and killed by thunder and lightning to-day."\* The state of health of the Minister is frequently recorded. 30th March, 1707, "the Minister, being much indisposed with the toothache, only preached and did not lecture." 18th March, 1716, "the Minister of Drumoak preached, our own Minister being gone to Aberdeen to stay there some time under the Physician's cure for the jaundice, where-with he was seized." 20th December, 1724, "Minister, though weary through cold and travail, yet preached." To neglect attending a funeral on being invited was frowned upon in a serious way. 5th November, 1676, "act passed that all parties

\* "On Saturday, 10th July, 1779, we were visited by a fatal thunderstorm. The morning of that day was bright and hot. At noon the atmosphere became overcast. A storm gathered in the north, and made its progress southward over this place. About three o'clock the explosion of the thunder cloud, then vertical to us, was tremendous. At that instant a farmer's son with two servants were loading their carts, in a heath about a mile south, with stones for building the church. The two servants and two of the horses were killed. The farmer's son was struck to the ground, and remained some time in a state of insensibility. Next morning the two servants were buried here in one grave. A stone was set up at the fatal spot, with the initials of their names." [Old Statistical Account.]



absenting themselves from a burial after being charged thereto shall be fined a mark piece to the church box." If fines were exacted for trivial offences, and if the views of the kirk-session generally were somewhat narrow, charity seems to have been dealt out on tolerably broad principles. Not only did poor travelling strangers, naked lasses, diseased children, born fools, and triplets, receive of the session bounty, but considerable sums were disbursed from time to time in relieving "mariners of Montrose taken by the Turks," in "helping a poor woman from Jedburgh who had lost 7000 merks by fire," for "the rebuilding of houses burnt in the Canongate Edinburgh," for "the erecting of a new bridge at Inverness," and "for the defraying of the expense of translating the Bible into Gaelic."

The Presbytery, in attesting the minute book on 22nd August, 1700, warned the Session "that they must not meddle with any civil affairs, accounts, or reckonings on the Lord's day in time coming under pain of censure."

The following church law, passed by the Session in 1698, is, from the sweeping character of its terms, deserving of notice:—"The breakers and violators of God's commands and Ecclesiastick Laws, all Hereticks, Apostats, and Schismatics, Atheists, Idolators, Papists, Quakers, &c. (within the parish) who forsake God and follow the Devil, directly or indirectly, as Witches, Conjurors, Charmers, Juglars, Fortune-tellers, &c. All prophane and scandalous hypocritical and superstitious

persons, Blasphemers, Cursers, Swearers, For-swearers, and Perjurers, impenitent, obstinate, contumacious, and incorrigible sinners, irreligious and grossly ignorant creatures, who prophane or contemn God's name and ordinances, and carry irreverently in time of God's worship, who tempt and provoke God and others, who contemn, mock, and scorn, and are disobedient and obstinate to Parents, Civil or Ecclesiastick, as Magistrats, Ministers, &c., who are cruell and revengeful, strive, strick, and fight with, defile and polute, steal, rob, and oppress, detract, revile, and slander, cheat, lye, and backbite, raise and bear false reports on and witness against and blot the good name, credit, and repute of, or envy their neighbours, and covet what is theirs; who forge Testificates, &c., who commit sins and scandals against, or omit duties and offices to God, themselves, or their neighbours, who neglect and contemn God's worship, its means, manner and season, and do not preserve and maintain their own and neighbours respect and credit, life and charity, livelihood and estate, good name and fame, and are undutiful and injurious to Magistrates, Ministers, Elders, Husbands, Wives, Parents, Children, Masters, Servants, Relations, Superiors, Inferiors or Equals, who contemn and despise God's ordinances and Sacraments, Providences and Works, Christ's Offices and Members, Church Government and discipline, the Spirit's Grace and wages, who neglect Prayers, singing of Psalms, Catechising and Conference, and follow

their own inventions in God's service, who do not remember and keep holy by reading, praying, and religious exercises, or break the Lord's day by sinfull words or works, idleness or unnecessary recreations and employments, working (works of necessity and charity and mercy excepted), travelling or doing what should or may be done on other days, viz.:—buying and selling, borrowing or lending, craving and paying debts, taking tacks, feeing servants, making bargains, merchandising, trading, fishing, fleshing, threshing, grinding, or the like servill works. Who spend their time and talents, health and wealth, by idleness or slothfullness in their callings, infrugality or prodigality, false weights or measures, gaining, pledging, and drinking unnecessarily or unseasonably (now refreshment being sometimes necessary on the Lord's day, some time is allowed therefor, but if they stay in the change house after the ringing of the bell, or take more than what refreshes them, then they and the Innkeeper shall be censured and fyned according to the nature of their sin and scandal) all the foresaid persons (if anie be in this parish) shall not only be censured but also fyned and punished according to the nature and quality of the Persons and Parties offending and offended, of the offence and crime and its circumstances, and they are to be dealt with privately and publickly, and to satisfy before the Session or Congregation, Presbytery, or any other Church Judicature as is usual, and being censured as is requisite till they

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pay their then penalties and satisfy the Church for their scandal, they shall be enrolled and read to be such, and if they continue or be contumacious, they shall not be admitted to the Holy Communion, but shall be charged before the Judges and Judicatures competent, and to make the same effectual according to the laudable laws of this Kingdom in Church and State, the Session give power to the Minister to make a Session Bailly (if need be) or empower any of their number to prosecute the same, and shall pay his necessary and instructed charges and expenses for that end."

## MARYCULTER.

THE greater part of the lands of Culter, now embraced in the parish of Maryculter, was granted by King William the Lion about 1187 to the monks of Kelso, or, with more accuracy, to the Knights Templars. Between 1221 and 1236 Walter Beyseth or Bisset founded a preceptory of these Templars at Maryculter,<sup>1</sup> and in 1240 Bishop Radulphus of Aberdeen granted the Church of Aboyne to the brethren of the Temple at Culter,<sup>2</sup> who had erected a chapel on the south side of the Dee, which, in 1287-8, was consecrated—receiving the rights of burial and administration of the sacraments—and dedicated to Saint Mary. This explains how the portions of the original parish of Peterculter on the north and south sides of the river Dee came to be called Peterculter and Maryculter respectively.

As the Knights Templars were at one time so closely associated with the history of this parish, it may not be improper to sketch in a few words their origin and career, that general local readers especially may be interested by knowing something of the nature and greatness of the order of men who, many centuries ago, lived and ruled in these localities that to this day retain traces of

1. Beaulieu Priory G.C., p. 300.

2. Regis. Epis. Abdl., II., p. 271.

their work and memorials of their power. The order was established early in the twelfth century by Hugh de Payens, Godfrey of St. Omer, and seven other French Knights of noble birth, who banded themselves together for the purpose of escorting those Christian pilgrims who crossed Judea on their way to Jerusalem. This service was the more valuable in a country where the Christians had so many enemies, and where roving Bedouins were swarming. In after times the objects of the Knights included the defence of the Christian faith, and of the Holy Sepulchre against the Saracens. They received the name of Templars through their keeping their arms in a building granted them by the abbot of the convent called the Temple of Jerusalem. They vowed obedience, chastity, and poverty, to defend the Temple and city, to entertain pilgrims, and guard them safely through the Holy Land. The admission of members to the order was solemn and impressive, the ceremony taking place at dead of night.

Pope Honorius II. confirmed the order in 1128, and imposed certain rules of observance, such as abstention from flesh for four days each week, and from eggs and milk on Fridays. There was a curious provision that two and two should eat at the same board, in order that the one might see that the other did not fast. They were allowed no ornaments; hair and dress were to be kept plain and simple. Except by special permission of the superior, they were to hold no correspondence with

any one in the outer world, not even with mothers, sisters, or brothers. They were to look at the serious side of life as soldiers of righteousness fighting against frivolity, so much so that the most innocent amusements were discouraged as trifling. A Templar was not to engage in hunting, hawking, or shooting, and still less in the playing of idle games. An exception, however, was made in the case of lion hunting, it being considered brave and manly to encounter the king of beasts with no weapon of protection save a knife. It was the custom of the Knights to wear a white cloak (the emblem of chastity), adorned with an eight-pointed red cross on the left shoulder, and in this attire, Mackenzie says, "the Templar, on his swift and fiery charger, and the point of his lance glancing in the sun, was full oft a welcome sight to the weary pilgrim toiling along the dusty road from Jaffa to Jerusalem with the dread of Arab robbers upon him at every step."

It was during the reign of David *the Sore Saint* that they first made their appearance in Scotland, but how they could, so early as the time of William the Lion, have had extensive possessions in Maryculter, Aberdeen, and Buchan, as elsewhere in Scotland, it is difficult to understand. It is apparent that there was scarcely a parish in Scotland wherein, at some time or other, they had not lands, farms, or houses. Their gallant bearing, however, and the fame of their exploits, must have procured them many converts, as also rich

donations both in money and lands. Indeed, in less than one hundred years from the date of their establishment as an order, they had grown into an army of some fifteen thousand trained warriors, who were bound by their vow never to decline battle, even with one to three. When fighting with the Saracens it was a fixed rule that if one of their number was taken prisoner he was not to be ransomed but left to his fate. When so captured he was invariably offered, says Mr. Froude, "the alternative of the Koran or the sword, and there is scarcely one recorded instance of a Templar saving his life by abandoning his faith." Ultimately their wealth and power increased till rivalry and jealousy were aroused. Rumours were circulated against them, imputing surreptitious scheming for the overthrow of European thrones, and the consequent advancement of their own power. They were also charged with apostasy from the Catholic faith, and with perpetrating the most hideous crimes. Philip IV. of France, in concert with Pope Clement V., took active steps against them, more, however, with a view to appropriating their possessions, than to punishing their alleged crimes. A number of the leading members on the continent were arrested and put upon a mock trial. Many, declining to confess to the absurd accusations laid against them, were subjected to cruel tortures, while others were burned alive.

The order was finally abolished by a Papal bull, dated 2nd March, 1312, but Philip and Clement,



the instigators of this cruel proceeding, did not long enjoy their triumph. In the time and manner of their deaths there is a touch of the just retribution that overtakes the tyrant and the oppressor. Among the victims of their avarice and cruelty was De Molay, the Grand Master, and it is said that when the flames were consuming his limbs, he called with a loud voice, "Clement, I summon thee to appear within forty days before the tribunal of the Supreme Judge, and thou, Philip, prepare thyself to appear also before Him within a year!" Such were the last words of that valiant man, and those who believe in the certainty of a dying martyr's prophecy or judgment must have found their faith corroborated here, for it is an extraordinary circumstance that, within a few weeks, Clement died in agony, and that, a little later, Philip, being flung by a vicious horse, likewise succumbed. Thenceforward there was a universal conviction throughout the country that the Templars had been unjustly dealt with, but, the order of abolition having been passed, no effort was made to have it recalled. In Scotland, however, they received the utmost respect and protection, and in England Edward II. was so favourable to them, that he wrote specially to the Pope, and to the greater number of the Kings of Europe, "begging them to give no credit to the calumnies divulged against the Knight Templars, whose purity of faith, good customs, and zeal for the defence of religion, all England revered."

All the extensive Templar estates, including the lands in Maryculter, were conferred upon the Knights Hospitallers or Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, whose Scottish headquarters were at Torphichen in Linlithgowshire. Several writers state that so great prices were paid for these properties that the Hospitallers were left poorer by the transactions. This order was founded as early as 1048 by some devout merchants of Melphis who, previous to the Crusades, had obtained from the Caliph of Egypt permission to erect a church and hospital in Jerusalem for the entertainment of Christian pilgrims. These institutions had been founded scarcely seventeen years when they were on the verge of destruction by the Ottoman Turks, who not only took Jerusalem, but conquered Palestine. The Turks persecuted the Christians with the utmost rigour, and consented to the preservation of their hospitals and church, only when heavy contributions were paid. It was then that Philip the Hermit preached the first Crusade against the Infidels who were oppressing the Holy Land, and enlisted the nations of the west for the purpose of re-capturing the tomb of Jesus Christ. The Hospitallers, who had until this time been exclusively laical, formed themselves into a religious order, with vows very similar to those of the Templars already described. Having shown conspicuous valour at the siege of the Holy City, they received large possessions from Godfrey, when he led his victorious Crusaders within the walls of

Jerusalem, and having erected a magnificent church in honour of St. John, and an hospital for the reception of the sick, they obtained the name by which they were afterwards known. They assumed as their peculiar dress a black habit, with a cross of gold having eight points enamelled white, in memory of the eight beatitudes. Their order contained some of the most illustrious youth of Europe ; and so severe was the test applied to candidates for admission, that every entrant had to prove his nobility for four generations, and that he had been born in lawful wedlock ; unless he happened to be the bastard of a king, for the honour of having royal blood alone could outweigh the disgrace of illegitimacy.

With objects almost identical, the Hospitallers and Templars might naturally have been expected to regard one another with feelings of amity and good-will. On the contrary, however, the utmost hostility was manifested by the rival members, and it is recorded that they not only frequently quarrelled, but in 1259 fought a pitched battle in the very centre of the Holy Land, when many on both sides were slain.

The Hospitallers long maintained themselves against the arms of the Turks and Saracens, but in 1291 were driven from Palestine. Upon this they conquered Cyprus, but soon lost it again, whereupon, in 1309, they established their headquarters in the island of Rhodes. Hence they are sometimes called *Knights of Rhodes*, and in the same

way, from their subsequently settling in Malta, they are occasionally designed as *Knights of Malta*.

The two orders of Knights proved excellent landlords at Maryculter. When any of their land was not farmed by themselves in the manner afterwards described, but leased to seculars, great care was exercised in seeing that the lessee constantly kept the cross of the order on the top of his principal dwelling, as an emblem of subjection, and that he was answerable only to the jurisdiction of the Templar courts. Indeed, the power wielded by the Templars within their own territory was of such a sweeping character that even the Sheriff of the County could not interfere in the settling of their disputes. In 1547, on the Sheriff of Kincardineshire giving a verdict in an action which had been instituted before him, regarding alleged mis-cropping at Mains of Maryculter, the Lords of Council and Session found in a suspension which was thereupon raised by the Preceptor of Torphichen, that "the haill landis and barony at Marecultir" belonged "to his sayd preceptorie in fre regalite," having been "in tymes bypast replegit fra the Schiref of Kincardin and his deputis, to the fredome and priuelege of the sayd regalite and baillies courttis thairof,"<sup>1</sup> and therefore suspended the said judgment, because the "said Schiref and his deputis hes na jurisdiction within the said Lord of Sanct Johnnis landis, becauss he is fre quite and

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 359.

exemit frae all sic jugeis within this realme as the confirmation of the priuilege and exemptioun given and grantit be diwerss Kingis to the said Lord and his predecessours" bears. The decret following upon this finding was duly confirmed by Queen Mary.<sup>1</sup>

During the respective proprietorships of these two orders at Maryculter they built a preceptory for themselves, as before stated, and a church for their tenants, which was of so substantial workmanship that the building was used as the parish church until the latter years of last century. A portion of one of the walls of this old fabric is still standing. Part of the walls of the preceptory was used in the building of the mansion house of Maryculter, erected in 1728 by Sir Gilbert Menzies, who then owned the property. There was for long preserved at the farm of Tilburies, in the neighbourhood, a carved black oak door, said to have been the door of the Grand Master's room.

Thus has passed away the glory, and well-nigh the memory, of those who spread the knowledge, and promoted the exercise of religion among a simple, homely, ignorant people, who no doubt often blessed the band of pious men that brought to them the light of saving truth and heavenly consolation. Only in imagination dwells the picture of the daily work of these old Knights, returned from Rhodes or Malta, spending the

1. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 359.

quiet evening of their troubled lives amid simple duties, and rehearsing to noble-spirited youth the wondrous valour of those soldiers of the cross who were faithful unto death.

John Fleming, who always signed himself "Joannes Fleming, *Miles*,"<sup>1</sup> and who was the local Grand Master about 1415, had signalized himself in arms at Rhodes, but here he left a more enduring memorial than military fame, for the divisions of the estate and parish\* which he marked out are still adhered to, and there remain the march stones which he erected, the Maltese cross upon which reminds us that, in bygone centuries, this brave and gallant man held powerful sway in Maryculter. Several documents shew that the good old Knight frequently acted as Arbiter in disputes regarding boundaries.<sup>2</sup>

In 1528, the Scottish Parliament of James V. passed an Act authorising religious corporations to feu out their lands to such substantial men as

1. Walker's *The Knights Templar in and around Aberdeen*, pp. 13-14.

2. *Ibid.*

\* "Thir ar merys of the landis of Cultyr pertenant to the Tempill of Saynt Jon. To begyn at the est half / at the burn of The Ardach as it descendis in the watir of Dee. And sua endlant that burn and about Tulyschetir to the hill of Knokyndythir. And sua furth west to Drumdothrik. And sua to the syde of Corsley. And syne furth on the west half to the Cors of Brechmount. And syne downe betwixt the twa Essyntulis to the Crag of Essyntuly. And sua downe to Drumdarach / and thar wes a Cors. And sua in the watir of Dee / on the west half of the land of Cultyr towart Durrys." Collections *Aberdeen and Banff*, p. 300.

might be expected to improve them. Seven years later, the provisions of this Act were taken advantage of in Maryculter, and Kingcausie, the first break in the property of the Knights, was sold to a cadet of the Irvine family. In the same year Blairs went to Gilbert Menzies, laird of Findon, and shortly afterwards Baillie Collinson, or Collison, of Aberdeen, acquired Auchlunies.

When the Knights finally abandoned their old home in 1548, there were only six Knights and one Chaplain remaining in the preceptory. There were two Polwarts, two Wedderburns, one Duncanson, one Ingles, and the Chaplain, whose name was MacNicol.<sup>1</sup>

Bishop Keith says that, at the Reformation, Sir James Sandilands, the last preceptor, resigned all the lands of the Order in Scotland into the hands of Queen Mary, who feued them out again to Sir James for Ten thousand crowns, and a yearly payment of Five hundred merks. She also erected all the lands into a temporal lordship, in favour of him and his heirs, by a charter under the Great Seal, dated 24th January, 1563. Thereafter Sir James disposed all the Temple lands lying in the shires of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Stirling, Kincardine, and Aberdeen, in favour of James Tennent of Lynhouse, and Robert Williamson, writer in Edinburgh, for Ten thousand merks, reserving to himself out of the disposition the lands of Torphichen,

1. Walker's *The Knights Templar in and around Aberdeen*, p. 15.

Liston, Dennie, Thankerton, Balantradoch, and Maryculter, as also his right to the churches of Torphichen, Temple, Inchmachan, Maryculter, Aboyne, Tulloch, and Kilbartha,\* with the respective lands belonging to each. Sometime thereafter Tennent and Williamson conveyed their whole rights to Thomas, Lord Binning, ancestor of the Earl of Haddington, and ultimately the right of patronage of the church of Maryculter passed into the hands of the Duffs of Fetteresso and Culter.

For many centuries farming has been the chief occupation of the inhabitants of Maryculter, and if we would know something of the management of the estates by the Templars, we may find the information in the general account of the subject by Mr. Cosmo Innes, who says that the greater part of the land was in their own hands, and that they cultivated it by their own villains from their several granges. "The grange itself, the chief house of each of the abbey-baronies, must have been a spacious farm-steading. In it were gathered the cattle, implements, and stores needed for the cultivation of their demesne lands, or mains, and their women and families. A monk, or lay brother of the abbey, superintended the whole. Adjoining the grange was a mill, with all its pertinents and appearance, and reality of comfort, and a hamlet, occupied by the cottars, sometimes thirty or forty families in number. The situation of these was far

\* One of the old names for Towie.



above the class now known by that name. Under the monks of Kelso each cottar occupied from one to nine acres of land along with his cottage. Their rents varied from one to six shillings yearly, with services not exceeding nine days' labour in the year. Beyond the hamlet or cottar town were steadings of the *husbandi*, or husbandmen, the next class of the rural population. Each of these held of the abbey a definite quantity of land, called a husbandland. Each tenant of a husbandland kept two oxen, and six united their oxen to work the common plough. The Scotch plough of the thirteenth century was a ponderous machine drawn, when the team was complete, by twelve oxen. The husbandland was estimated to be about twenty-six acres." The lease of Mains of Maryculter, with the "Couttoun of the samyn," to Alexander Lyndesay, in 1545, shews that its duration was to be for nineteen years, and that the rent was to be "tuenty aucht pundis vsuale money of Scotland . . . togidder with vij dosand of pultrie."<sup>1</sup> Up to the beginning of the present century the farms extended across the whole breadth of the parish, by which means every tenant had a portion of all the different soils.<sup>2</sup> There were then twenty eight ploughgates of land reclaimed, and the rent varied from ten to twenty shillings per acre. In 1783 there were forty to fifty carts, thirty six ploughs, one wagon, and one coach in the

1. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 596.

2. Old Statistical Account of Scotland, VI., p. 80.

parish. In the end of last century females from seven years of age and upwards were employed mostly in spinning and the knitting of stockings, for which combed wool was given out by the hosiers of Aberdeen, in different parts of the parish on certain days, called *factory days*, on which also the wrought stockings were received.<sup>1</sup> Each pair cost for spinning and knitting from one shilling to three shillings and sixpence, the cheaper being considered the more profitable.

In 1790 the male population was made up among others of four tailors, ten weavers, four wrights, four sailors, four shoemakers, four gardeners, three discharged soldiers, and two Chelsea pensioners.

There are two graveyards, one at the old church by the side of the river, and the other at Kirktown adjoining the new church. In the first-named there are several interesting tombstones, including those of two Knights Templars, who are represented in full armour.

If we may accept as accurate the old accounts of the age of the parishioners at their death, Maryculter seems to have had not a few who saw many years beyond the threescore and ten. In the old churchyard a tombstone records the death, in 1823, of Euphemia Arthur, aged 102 years ; while George Forbes, who died in 1761, was 106 years of age. The old Statistical Account would seem to indicate that there were giants, as well as patriarchs, in the

1. Statistical Account of Scotland, VI., p. 82.

parish in those days, when it says, "A man who died lately was six feet seven inches high. A widow woman who died last year was aged 102 ; and a man died lately at the advanced age of 104."

Traditions of importance are not abundant in this parish, and considering the lengthened period during which the Templars and Hospitallers held sway in it, some echoes of their times might naturally have been expected, for those days were the fruitful soil of romance. A small amount of unusual fact frequently serves as the foundation for weird and wonderful legendary structures, especially when ignorance and want of the spirit of independent investigation, combined with the superstitious credulity latent in the mind at all times, and particularly prevalent when physical phenomena are not examined or understood, both lead men to ascribe strange events to supernatural agency, and foster a ready acceptance of tales in proportion to their mystery.

There was much in connection with the Templars to give food for superstitious craving, and to excite the fancy and imagination of the credulous. They were admitted into the order with rites rigidly kept from common knowledge, and these gradually assumed, in the popular imagination, shapes of a strange, mysterious, and awful character. The wanderings of the Templars in many countries, and particularly in the Holy Land, the home of so many sacred memories and devout conceptions, produced among the common people that deep awe and reve-

rence which have frequently been the foundation of legend. Many of the warrior members had been in the world's most sacred city—Jerusalem, and had gazed on the most precious spot on earth—the tomb of Christ. All this and much else naturally made the Templars and Hospitallers the objects of popular veneration, and their deeds were in consequence thickly woven into the vast garment of legend and tradition, with which, in ignorant times, the uninformed mind clothed the simple facts of life, and concealed the plain events of history.

Investigation into the legendary lore of this particular locality has not been very fruitful in results. The only legend which I have heard has, according to expectation, been found to rest upon the deeds of the valiant Knights of the Temple, and their connection with the district. The small substratum of fact that may be in it is almost entirely buried under the weight of purely legendary matter, but all the same the narrative may not prove uninteresting to the reader.

Godfrey Wedderburn was a native of the parish of Maryculter, his father having settled there after holding high office in the household of the Pope. The Templars were frequent visitors at Wedderburn's house, and there, from his earliest years, the young man's soul had been thrilled by tales of the dangers faced, and the matchless valour displayed by the soldiers of the Temple in the Holy Land. Most or all of the narrators had taken part in, or been eye-witnesses of the events they described,

which gave the greater vividness to their narrations, and the more powerfully impressed their youthful hearer.

When of age young Wedderburn joined the ranks of the Templars, and, having undergone the necessary probation, went to the Holy Land, where he signalized himself in many a bloody engagement, receiving promotion and other marks of distinction for his bravery. As his successes accumulated, his thirst for glory proportionally increased. Almost despising the honours won in the ordinary course of battle, however fierce, he began to seek opportunities for the display of his valour without wisdom or discretion. On a certain day when the Templar army stood awaiting the order to advance and engage the hordes of the opposing Saracens, Wedderburn thought that the time had come for a crowning act of heroism, so without hesitation, and against command, he boldly galloped out against the stalwart commander who was marshalling and exhorting the hot-blooded Saracen bands for the approaching fray. The dusky warrior showed no indisposition to accept the combat, but his fiery followers, rushing forth like angry bees, hurled their javelins at the hated heretic, and he fell with many wounds. In an instant the battle was general, and continued with unabated bitterness till darkness put an end to the carnage. When Wedderburn regained consciousness, all was still around, and the fierce glare of the eastern sun had given place to the mellow bright-

ness of the moon. With great pain and difficulty he struggled to his feet, and, tottering onward towards some trees he dimly saw in the near distance, he at last reached what proved to be a well of water, around which were evidences that it was frequently visited, and must thus be near to human habitations. The well was deep, however, and the tinkling of the drops that fell from its dripping sides only mocked the cravings of his burning thirst. Exhausted by loss of blood and maddening agony he sank unconscious to the ground, and his fevered dream of trouble was broken only by the faint sensation of cold water touching his burning lips, and a gentle hand supporting his aching head. He awakened to behold the dark but tender eyes of a Saracen damsel gazing into his face with affectionate wistfulness to catch the first signs of returning consciousness. She was a true daughter of the east, and lovely as a poet's dream of beauty. With all her loveliness she had that which only high birth for generations can give, and which unmistakeably declares the noble origin of its possessor. She was in fact none other than the daughter of the very chief whose blood the Templar had sought to spill as a proof of his martial prowess. Why she shewed this tender solicitude for one whose creed and name were accursed among the people of her country we are not informed—such questions find no place in legends. She could not take him to her home, or inform her people of his whereabouts, for his instant

slaughter would have seemed to them a sacred duty ; so she bore him to a cave in a rock at hand, and there laid him, tending his wounds and supplying his wants. To allay his fears and comfort him in his lonely helpless condition and situation, she took from her breast and presented to him a simple ring of gold, having one small stone of great brightness set in it, which she declared to be a charm that would protect him from all the dangers of war and disease, but could be worn only by those of spotless purity and unsullied honour.

For months the fair and faithful preserver of his life tended him with unceasing devotion, soothing his wounds by the simple but effective remedies known among her people, and cheering his lonely hours of enforced seclusion by many a magic tale of love and war, for he understood and could speak the language of her country, and no doubt told her much of the story of his life, both in the quiet parish far away in the land of clouds and cold, and in the ranks of the defenders of the Catholic faith. She loved him with a consuming love. He loved her with a deep and grateful love, but regard to the vows of his order compelled him to give no evidence of it either by word or sign.

Some months after the battle in which he had been so severely wounded, and when he had almost regained the vigour of health, a great company of Templars journeying to Europe passed that way, and he seized the opportunity of quitting his strange and dangerous hiding-place, and joining

the band without the knowledge of the noble Saracen who had almost risked her own life in order to preserve his.

He returned to Maryculter, and stayed there for a year or two in quietude, for the Saracens were peaceful. But one Sabbath morning, as the Templars and their dependants were passing into church for early mass, their attention was attracted by the closely veiled figure of a tall and graceful woman, whose garments, however, showed signs of long and dusty travel. Silent she stood, with head posed in the attitude of pensive sadness, yet through her veil her eager eyes flashed as she scanned closely the features of every passer by. Almost all had passed in, when Godfrey Wedderburn walked slowly up to the door of the little chapel. On his approach, the hitherto almost motionless woman at first tottered as if about to fall, then, wildly passing her hands to her head, she tore aside her veil and exposed the still surpassingly lovely, though slightly saddened face of Godfrey's erstwhile ministering angel. With a scream she threw her arms around his neck and clung to him as the tiger clings to his prey.

The general body of the worshippers were amazed beyond expression, for they reckoned that, however lovely she might be, the colour of her face declared the nature of her mission and her master. Godfrey's fellow Templars cast pitying looks on him, for the woman's dark-complexioned face, except for its beauty, was nothing wonderful to them ;



rather in it they saw at once the explanation of the mystery, and read the old and sometimes fatal truth, that love is stronger than death.

The Grand Master sternly commanded that the woman be removed, and that Wedderburn wait upon him when service ended. The poor girl, sobbing and struggling hysterically, was taken to a neighbouring house and tenderly cared for. Wedderburn appearing before the Grand Master frankly detailed the whole of the events which had led up to the affecting occurrence. But his story, although received as correct in the main, was nevertheless disbelieved, in so far as it maintained his honour and his faithfulness to his vows. The Templar's blood warmed as the Master persisted in assuming that he had not acted with the honour that became a soldier of the Temple, until, in the heat of ungovernable rage, he sprang at the Master and struck him to the ground. Such an insult offered to one of that rank, and such a breach of the strict rule of Templar obedience could be adequately punished only by the death of the offender, and so Godfrey Wedderburn was sentenced to be led forth at midnight beyond the buildings, and there pay the penalty of his unbridled anger ; but, in consideration of his great services, and conspicuous courage on many fields, he was to be saved the indignity of dying by another's hand, and to be permitted to plunge the dagger into his own breast. The Templars pleaded with the Master to reduce the severity of his sentence, but he was inflexible.

When the appointed hour arrived, Wedderburn went forth to the place of death, accompanied by the Grand Master and the sorrow-stricken Templars, whose flickering torches, dimly shining, showed his sad but fearless face. Summoned to halt at the spot where disobedient and unworthy members of the order were wont to suffer for disgrace, he bared his breast in the light cast from the torches, held by the trembling hands of his mourning companions, standing with their faces covered in their cloaks, and, anew declaring his innocence, and asking as one last favour that his body might be buried in some lonely spot, where his spirit might hear the gurgle of the stream, and thus be reminded of the signal deliverance at the spring in the burning plains of Palestine, he drove the dagger to the hilt into the heart that had never feared aught but dishonour.

As he fell to the ground the woods and valleys resounded with a scream that struck terror into the hearts of strong men, and into the presence of the strange assembly sprang the Saracen maiden, with hair dishevelled, and eyes glistening with the wild glare of delirium. Rushing to the place where her warrior lover lay, she snatched from his blood-stained breast the charm she had given him, and, casting it around her neck, summoned God and heaven to witness that she, and he whose lifeless body lay on the dewy grass, were pure as the stars that studded that midnight sky. Then grief loosened her tongue in swift and tragic eloquence,

and some who understood it trembled, and some regarded it as but the raving of a mind unhinged. Again, tearing the ring from off her heaving breast she dared the Master to put it on, and see whether there were truth in her words, and justice in heaven for the wronged.

Prompted possibly by contempt for the superstitious warning of the infidel Saracen, he defiantly threw the charm round his neck, and stood forth into full view of the astounded Templars, that they might see how false had been the words, and how vain the threats, of this daughter of the desert. He had but opened his lips, perhaps to rail or sneer, when a blinding light flashed from heaven, and a blue bolt of fire struck deep down into the earth where the Master stood, and he was seen no more. Does not the "Thunder Hole" to this day witness to the truth of this story?

The Saracen shouted a mad shout of joy, plucked the dagger from Godfrey's gory breast, and buried it deep in her own bosom.

The Templars fled in consternation, and refused to visit the spot until the dawn of day should make it safe to approach a place so manifestly haunted by the spirits of the unseen. They found the two corpses of the lovers lying almost side by side, and near to them the ring by which the stain had been wiped from two pure youthful lives, and the swift and terrible vengeance of heaven brought on the perpetrator of injustice.

The Templars, fearing to keep the charm, cast

it out into the fields, where yet, at midnight, once a year, on the date of the woeful tragedy, it shines with a pale blue light, and he who finds may wear it, and live scatheless from all disease, but let him be mindful that it brings not a blessing, but a curse to the breast that is not warmed by a pure and noble heart.

Godfrey Wedderburn's stiffened body was placed in the chapel to await interment, and those keeping vigil saw an angel like to the form of the beautiful Saracen hover over it, and kiss its pale and bloodless lips, and they thought that for a moment a wave of joyous expression passed over the cold and motionless features of the dead.

Regard was had to his dying request, and they laid him in a quiet nook near to the Corbie Linn. In the same grave they placed the body of her whom love had brought from the distant deserts of her beloved country, that together they might listen to the murmur of the stream, till awakened by the rushing sound of angels' wings.

Not so long ago men used to tell with bated breath of having seen, at dead of night, a fully armed soldier gallop along the glen and over the hill of Kingcausie, as they echoed to the thunder of his war-cry.

Sometimes also near the Corbie Linn a dark complexioned woman of wondrous beauty has been seen sitting sadly on the rocks, or gliding through the adjacent woods, singing the while in a low entrancing voice a song of tearful

sadness. Watchers by the bed of the sick have often seen the same dark and beautiful figure, with tear-dimmed eyes and blood-stained robe, enter the room and beckon to the sick one, and they have thereby known that the last farewell must soon be spoken, and the loved voice heard no more forever, in this world.

#### ESTATE OF MARYCULTER.

THE lands of Maryculter and Ashentilly were in the possession of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem till 1540, in September of which year Sir Walter Lyndesay, the preceptor of Torphichen, with the consent of the master of the Hospital of St. John, granted a charter to his beloved "*germano fratri Alexandro* Lyndesay" of the lands of "Essintully" with the adjacent fishings on the Dee.<sup>1</sup> Five years later Lyndesay had a lease of the "Manis of Mareculter and the teynd schawis of the said Manis with the Cottoune" thereof, being bound under the lease to furnish his superior with "thre barrell of salmont yeirlie for the Weill Watter anentis Furd, conforme to the auld tak maid abefore."<sup>2</sup>

The *Weill* and the *Furd* are still known, and till quite recently the fishermen shot their nets from the Ford into the Weal, at the top of which

1. *Antiquities Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 595-6.

2. *Ibid*, p. 596.

is the ancient *Peter Well* of Peterculter. "The Ford was the ferryboat station, until the Dee changed its course at this point, after which it was removed to the Inch Farm."<sup>1</sup>

Early in 1547 Sir James Sandilands, Lord St. John and preceptor of Torphichen, granted to Alexander Lyndesay a new lease for nineteen years of the tithes of "Ester Essintully and Cottoun of the Mains of Mariculter," the annual rent of the same being stated at Eight pounds usual money.<sup>2</sup> Lyndesay seems to have combined the peaceful pursuit of farming with the exciting profession of arms, for he took an active part in the disastrous battle of Pinkie, in which he was slain.<sup>3</sup>

In 1563 the whole lands of the order of St. John were erected into a temporal barony for Lord Torphichen, from one of whose successors the manor place of Maryculter and the adjoining lands were bought, about 1618, by Menzies of Pitfodels, whose predecessors had long before owned Blairs.<sup>4</sup>

The estate was bought in 1811 from John Menzies by General the Hon. William Gordon,<sup>5</sup> an officer of distinction, who was Colonel of the 21st Fusiliers. He was also for many years a member of the Imperial Parliament, and a Groom of the

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 124.

2. Antiquities, *Aberdeen and Banff*, III., p. 597.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 359.

4. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 124.

5. Title Deeds of Estate.

Bed-chamber of George III.<sup>1</sup> He greatly altered and added to the house of Maryculter, to which he was much attached. He died in 1816, and was succeeded by his son, William Gordon, who carried the house bell of Maryculter to Fyvie after he ceased to live there. In 1839 he disposed of the greater portion of the property, which is noticed under the chapter *Altries*. He died in 1847, and was succeeded by Captain William Cosmo Gordon, H.E.I.C.'s Artillery, who married Mary Grace, third daughter of Sir Robert Abercromby Bart., of Birkenbog and Forglen. As he left no heir, his second brother, Captain Alexander Henry Gordon, of the Indian Navy, became proprietor in 1879. Captain Gordon died in Aberdeen in March, 1884, and was succeeded by Sir Maurice Duff Gordon.<sup>2</sup>

The mansion house is situated on the south bank of the Dee amid surroundings of considerable amenity. It is approached by a carriage drive nearly a mile in length, and flanked by finely grown trees, which, in many cases, bear the marks of great age. The older portion of the present house was probably built about 1618, when the property came into the hands of Menzies of Pitfodels, who is said to have long used the clock tower as an oratory. A fire which broke out during divine service on Sunday, 13th March, 1720, did considerable damage to the building.

Within the grounds is an oval hollow, called the

1. Castles of Aberdeenshire, p. 61.

2. Title Deeds of Estate.

"Thunder Hole," which at one time measured over eighty yards across and about thirty feet in depth, but it is now being gradually filled up. Tradition says it was originally formed, under weird circumstances, by a thunderbolt, and the spot was for long considered the reverse of "canny."

#### ESTATE OF ALTRIES.

THIS estate, which originally formed part of the lands belonging to the Knights Templars of Maryculter, was the property of John Menzies of Pitfodels at the beginning of the present century, when it passed to the Gordon family. It was afterwards acquired by the trustees of James Kinloch, of Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, by disposition, dated 31st December, 1839.

The Maryculter lands included in the disposition are thus enumerated:—"The lands of Ashentillies, Bogfon, Muirskie, Cockley, Standing Stanes, Hillbrae, Burnside, East and West Sides, Crynoch, with the Miln and Miln Croft of Crynoch, Wettshaw, the lands of Stobhall, excepting those parts thereof formerly occupied by James Reid, the lands of Gateside, Parkhead, and Donald's Garth Fishing of Maryculter, together with the teinds and haill pertinents and privileges."

Mr. James Kinloch's trustees thereafter granted a deed of entail of the estates of Park and the above portions of Maryculter (now commonly



known as the estate of Altries) in favour of the late Alexander John Kinloch, and the substitute heirs of entail therein mentioned. When the entail was subsequently reduced, Park was sold, but Altries is still held by the representatives of the late Mr. Kinloch.

The name *Altries* does not occur in any of the title deeds of the estate, but when the mansion house was built, soon after the lands were acquired, it was called the House of Altries, and is believed to have been so named from the lordship of Altrie, part of the Pitfour estate in Buchan, of which Mr. James Kinloch at one time held a portion as a qualification for a freehold vote in Aberdeenshire.

The mansion house and estate form a compact and desirable property.

#### ESTATE OF KINGCAUSIE.

THE lands of Kingcausie were acquired from the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in 1535 by Henry, third son of Alexander Irvine of Drum. He married Jean, the eldest daughter of the first Collison of Auchlunies.

In 1592 the proprietor was John Irvine, who was keeper of the whole salmon fishings belonging to the town of Aberdeen between Kincardine O'Neil and Aberdeen.<sup>1</sup> The office had been attended

1. Privy Council Register, IV., p. 748.

with considerable risk, for it became necessary to take caution from certain parties, "that they would not harm the said John Irvine." In his capacity of keeper of the salmon fishings, Irvine, in September, 1604, became cautioner for Alexander Irvine of Drum for Five hundred merks that he "would not slay any salmon in forbidden time." Irvine had at least three sons, Alexander, Andrew, and John. A daughter, Mary, married Thomas Johnston of Caskieben.<sup>1</sup> In 1596 he acquired from Alexander Jaffray, burgess of Aberdeen, the lands of Sheddocksleys in the parish of Newhills, and, in the following year, he and Alexander and John, his sons, as "tutors of John Irving" his grandson, granted them to Thomas Forbes, younger, burgess of Aberdeen.<sup>2</sup>

On 17th March, 1630, Alexander Irvine was admitted a Burgess of Aberdeen. On the same date he was served heir to his father in half a net's salmon fishing on the water of Don.<sup>3</sup> At this time the struggles between the Covenanters and Royalists were so incessant and severe that Irvine, having visited Montrose, in company with the young laird of Drum, rendered himself obnoxious to the Estates, who offered a reward of Five thousand merks for his apprehension. It is related by Spalding that upon the night of Saturday the 17th August, 1644, Irvine, while on his way to

1. Douglas *Baronage*, p. 38.

2. *Antiquities, Aberdeen and Banff*, III., pp. 216-217.

3. *Miscellany, New Spalding Club*, I., p. 155.

Aberdeen, was met by William Forbes, natural son of John Forbes of Leslie, who happened to be coming out of that town towards Banchory-Devenick, where his father then resided. The meeting took place about the "Crabstane." Forbes, anxious to gain the reward, attempted to make Irvine a prisoner, but the latter "being ane fyne gentilman stormit to be tane with the lyk of him"; whereupon Forbes drew a pistol and shot Irvine dead before he could defend himself. Instead of being brought to trial and executed for this cruel murder, Forbes was esteemed as having done good service; but just retribution, as was then considered, fell upon him in the following year, inasmuch as when firing a musket he had his right hand shot away.

On 20th September, 1715, James Irvine, the laird of the period, joined the Earl Marischal and his party at the proclamation of the Pretender as King, at the Cross of Aberdeen. On that occasion the health of the banished Prince was drunk with great enthusiasm; at night the bells were rung and the town illuminated, while a lawless mob broke the windows of the supporters of the House of Hanover.<sup>1</sup>

By the death of her brother and grandfather the property passed to Ann Irvine, who, in 1783, married Claude Boswell of Balmuto in Fife, advocate, afterwards Lord Balmuto, by whom she had one son and two daughters. The son, John Irvine Boswell, succeeded, and his history is told

1. Book of Bon-Accord, p. 83.

on a well-known monument on the hill of Auchlee, which is one of the landmarks of the district. The monument is a massive circular tower rising from an octagonal base, on one side of which is the following inscription :—

IN MEMORY OF JOHN IRVINE BOSWELL, OF BALMUTO AND KINGCAUSIE, BORN 28TH DECEMBER, 1785; DIED 23RD DECEMBER, 1860. A MAN WHO LOVED HIS SAVIOUR, WALKED STEADFASTLY WITH HIS GOD, AND WHOSE RULE OF LIFE WAS "WHATSOEVER YE DO IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST." IN EARLY LIFE HE JOINED THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS, AND CARRIED THEIR COLOURS IN THE BATTLE OF TALAVERA. RETIRING FROM THE ARMY HE SETTLED AT KINGCAUSIE, AND LIVED TO TRANSFORM THE NATURAL BARRENNESS OF THE ESTATE INTO LUXURIOUS FERTILITY. HE WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE ENLIGHTENED ZEAL HE DISPLAYED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF ALL THE IMPROVEMENTS OF MODERN AGRICULTURE, AND HE DID NOT CONFINE HIS ATTENTION TO HIS OWN ESTATES, HIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE BEING EVER AT THE SERVICE OF HIS NEIGHBOURS, RICH AND POOR ALIKE. IN EVERY POSITION AND RELATION OF LIFE HE MAINTAINED WITH RARE FIDELITY THE CHARACTER OF A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN, AND HE DIED IN PEACE, TRUSTING SIMPLY IN THE MERITS OF HIS SAVIOUR FOR ACCEPTANCE WITH HIS GOD. HIS SORROWING WIDOW, MARGARET IRVINE BOSWELL, ERECTED THIS MONUMENT AS A SOLACE IN HER BITTER BEREAVEMENT.—A.D. MDCCC. LXII.

This lady was the daughter of James Christie of Durie, and died on 18th April, 1875, aged 86 years. Boswell left no issue. He had two sisters, the younger of whom died unmarried, while the elder married Mr. Syme, drawing-master of Dollar Academy, and had issue a son and a daughter. The Boswell estates were divided between these

two—the Balmuto property going to the son, and the Kingcausie portion to the daughter, who is married to Archer Irvine Fortescue of Swanbister, in Orkney.

#### ESTATE OF BLAIRS.

THIS estate which comprises about eleven hundred acres, and lies contiguous to Kingcausie, extends from the river Dee southward the whole breadth of the parish. There also belongs to the estate the Inch of Blairs, lying between Murtle and the north bank of the river Dee, which was formed many years ago through the Dee leaving its natural course and cutting through several fields. A considerable portion of the soil near the river is good and in a high state of cultivation, but towards the south it gets thin and coarse till it terminates in land altogether unsuitable for cultivation.

Like most of the other properties in Maryculter, Blairs belonged originally to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who, for the benefit of their tenants in the east end of their extensive property, had established a parsonage at Blairs where a priest resided.

By charter dated 15th December, 1535, Gilbert Menzies (better known by the sobriquet of *Banison Gib*), then laird of Findon, acquired an absolute right from Sir Walter Lyndesay, Lord St. John, Preceptor of Torphichen, with the special license

and consent of the Master of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the estate of "Blairs, Estland, Tuliskeith, and Ester Tilboury, together with the Mill of Maryculter." This grant was subsequently confirmed by a charter under the Great Seal dated 2nd June, 1542. Menzies married Marjory Chalmers, daughter of Provost Alexander Chalmers of Murtle, and by her had the following family:—Thomas, his heir, Alexander, Andrew, David, John Gilbert, and a daughter, who was married to John Dempster of Auchterless. He was provost of Aberdeen for twenty-four years, and, along with Baillie Collison, represented the burgh in the first Parliament of James V., receiving 6/8 per day of expenses, and eight horsemen to attend in their train, that they might appear at court with a splendour becoming the representatives of the opulent city.<sup>1</sup>

Menzies held several mortgages over the estate of Pitfodels, and it seems to have been his ambition to get the whole property into his family. An opportunity occurred during his lifetime, and he does not appear to have been slow to avail himself of it. Provost Alexander Reid of Pitfodels left an only child—Marion—who thus became his heiress. A prior compact had been entered into between Menzies and Reid that the daughter of the latter should wed Thomas, the son and heir of the former, so that thereby all the properties might become united. After Reid's death, his

1. Thoms' *History of Aberdeen*, I., p. 166.

widow, Margaret Crawford, did her best to thwart Menzies in the implementing of the alleged agreement, and considerable litigation took place in the local courts over the custody of Marion Reid, who was at the time a minor. Menzies, 'however, appears to have got his way in the dispute, for he produced the King's letters in his favour, granting him the ward and marriage to his son Thomas of the young heiress, in terms of the prior compact with Reid. The marriage, which had been contracted under such singular circumstances, took place on 12th January, 1520-1, and proved an eminently happy one.

Thomas Menzies had an active and eventful career. At Michaelmas, 1525, he was elected provost of Aberdeen, and during the following fifty years he held the chair for the long period of forty years, only demitting office temporarily to allow some member of his family to enjoy it for a short period. He was on several occasions chosen to represent the burgh in Parliament; in 1538, he acted as Marischal Depute of Scotland; and, in 1543, he was Comptroller of the royal household, an office which he seems to have held for several years. He died at an advanced age in 1576.

In the end of the sixteenth century the lands of Blairs belonged to Mr. Andrew Harvey, who would appear to have experienced much difficulty in defending his legal rights. On 21st April, 1587, it was complained to the Privy Council, "That the said Mr. Andro hes all and hail the salmond fisch-

eing of that part of the Watter of Dee under the hauch of the Blairis pertaining to him, and, conforme to his rychtis and titlis thairof, hes bene in possessioun of the same, be himselff, his servandis, and fischearis in his name ther divers yeiris bigane ; quhill of lait, upoun the tent day of Julii last, that Johnne Irwing in Kingcoussy, Richard, Andro, Alexander, and Johnne Irwingis, his sons, Thomas, and Walter Irwingis his brethir, Alexander Irwing, sone to the said Walter, with uthiris, thair compliceis, came to that parte of the Watter fairsaid quhair the said complenaris coble wes lokkit at his lok stok, and maisterfullie, and wranguslie brak the same coble and airis thairof, and be way of deid hes stoppit and debarrit the said complenare fra using of the said fisheing sensyne, tending be this forme of maisterfull oppressioun and bangstree to appropriate the said complenaris fisheing to thameselffis maist wranguslie. Like as the personis fairsaidis continualie molestis and troublis the said complenare, his saidis sones [James, Thomas, and William respectively], tennentis and servendis, in possessioun of thair landis and levingis, pyndis thair bestiall and guidis by all ordour of law, and haldis thame in houssis without meit, quhairthrow twenty of thame hes deceissit throw hunger. As alsua they continualie ly at waitt for the saidis complenaris, umbesettis thair hie wayes in thair ganging and cuming fra thair parroche kirk of Mary Culter ; quhairthrow they may not saufflie repair to the said kirk without thay be sufficientlie accompanied with



their friendis, for fear of thair lyveis. Like as thai have avowit and affermed that, quhenever the said James sall repair to thair pairtis, thay sal have his lyff, takand the gritare bauldness heirunto be ressoun of the resett, maintenance and allowance thay have of Alexander Irwing of Drum, being ane man weill clannit and allyed in the cuntrey."<sup>1</sup> The defenders, having failed to answer the charge, were declared rebels, but upon their subsequently finding caution for good conduct, the sentence was recalled. Harvey's troubles were not over, however, for in September, 1589, a bond had to be taken that Mr. Menzies of Durn should not molest or injure him, nor his eldest son James, under the penalty of 2000 merks. Again on 30th January, 1590-91, caution was granted for £1000 on behalf of John Collison of Auchlunies, and for 1000 merks each on behalf of John Gaw in Auchlunies, and William Cruickshank in Newhall of Auchlunies, that they should not harm "Mr. Andrew Harvey his tenants or servants."<sup>2</sup>

The estate again passed into the Menzies family, and in the end of last century Captain David Menzies, the proprietor, did much in the way of laying out and improving the property.<sup>3</sup>

Captain Menzies was succeeded by his nephew, John Menzies, who died in Edinburgh, a widower, on 11th October, 1843, aged 87 years. Jervise

1. Privy Council Register, VI., pp. 161-62.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 572.

3. Douglas's *East Coast of Scotland*, p. 226.

says "he was a member of the Abbotsford Club and at his expense the volume entitled 'Extracta E Variis Cronicis Scocie' was printed for the members. He was one of the most accomplished gentlemen of his time, and his purse was open to the poor of all denominations."<sup>1</sup> He was the last of his race, and by deed, dated in 1827, he conveyed the mansion house and lands to the Roman Catholic Bishops of Scotland for the establishment of a college for young men designed for the Roman Catholic priesthood. During the next two years extensive structural alterations on, and additions to, the mansion house were made in order to adapt it for a college. These being completed, it was formally opened under the title of *St. Mary's College* on the 2nd of June, 1829. The college, which had previously been established at Aquhorties, near Inverurie, was then closed, and its endowment incorporated with that of Blairs.

Blairs has a special interest to the artist and to the literary antiquary—containing as it does several most valuable paintings and rare volumes, which fortunately were saved from the fury of the populace during the fierce struggles of the French Revolution. Among the historical MSS. there are two specially worthy of notice. One is the prayer book of Anne of Bretagne, wife, first of Louis XI., and then of Charles VIII. of France; the other is the service book of the family of Beaton of Balfour—both being remarkable for beauty of

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, II., p. 119.

execution and variety of illustrations. One of the rolls, written in vellum in the 14th century, contains a poem on the Instruments of the Passion of our Blessed Lord, or, as they are sometimes called, *the Arms of Christ*. The concluding lines are thus given :—

These armes of Christ, bothe God and man,  
Seint Peter the pope descrivied hem (= *them*) ;  
What man these armis overseeth (= *despiseth*),  
For here (*i.e., their*) sinnes sori and schrive beth.  
(*i.e., there will be sorrow and penitence*).<sup>1</sup>

Among the printed books are the catechism of John Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrews, dated in 1552, and a perfect copy of the works of Niniane Winzet printed in 1562.<sup>2</sup>

The more remarkable of the paintings are those of Mary Queen of Scots, and of Cardinal Beaton, both of which were exhibited in the Stuart collection at the recent International Exhibition held in Glasgow. Of the former there are two portraits, one, a full length, measuring seven feet five inches in height, by four feet nine inches in breadth, the other, a three-quarter size, measuring five feet three inches high, by four feet three inches broad. There is a copy of the first in the possession of Queen Victoria, but it is understood to be inferior to that at Blairs. In the background of this picture the execution of the Queen at Fotheringay is repre-

1 Heraldic Ceiling of St. Machar, p. 148.

2. Memorials *Angus and Mearns*. II. pp. 252-53.

sented, along with portraits of Jane Kennedy and Elizabeth Curle, the two maids of honour who were present on the sad occasion. The royal arms of Scotland are painted on the right-hand corner of the picture, and there are three inscriptions in Latin, the translations of which are as follow :—

(1.) MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND, DOWAGER QUEEN OF FRANCE, TRULY LEGITIMATE SOVEREIGN OF THE KINGDOMS OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND, MOTHER OF JAMES, KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, OPPRESSED BY HER OWN SUBJECTS, IN THE YEAR 1568, WITH THE HOPE AND EXPECTATION OF AID PROMISED BY HER COUSIN, ELIZABETH, REIGNING IN ENGLAND WENT THITHER, AND THERE, CONTRARY TO THE LAW OF NATIONS, AND THE FAITH OF A PROMISE, BEING RETAINED CAPTIVE AFTER 19 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT ON ACCOUNT OF RELIGION, BY THE PERFIDY OF THE SAME ELIZABETH AND THE CRUELTY OF THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT, THE HORRIBLE SENTENCE OF DECAPITATION BEING PASSED UPON HER IS DELIVERED UP TO DEATH, AND ON THE 12TH OF THE KALENDS OF MARCH—SUCH AN EXAMPLE BEING UNHEARD OF—SHE IS BEHEADED BY A VILE AND ABJECT EXECUTIONER IN THE 45TH YEAR OF HER AGE AND REIGN.

(2.) IN PRESENCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MINISTERS OF Q. ELIZABETH, THE EXECUTIONER STRIKES WITH HIS AXE THE MOST SERENE QUEEN, THE DAUGHTER, WIFE, AND MOTHER OF KINGS,

AND AFTER A FIRST AND SECOND BLOW BY WHICH SHE WAS BARBAROUSLY WOUNDED, AT THE THIRD CUTS OFF HER HEAD.

(3.) WHILE SHE LIVED THE CHIEF PARENT AND  
FOUNDRESS OF THE

SCOTCH\* COLLEGE,

THUS THE ONCE MOST FLOURISHING QUEEN OF FRANCE AND SCOTLAND ASCENDS THE FATAL SCAFFOLD, WITH UNCONQUERED BUT PIOUS MIND, UPBRAIDS TYRANNY AND PERFIDY, PROFESSES THE CATHOLIC FAITH, AND PUBLICLY AND PLAINLY PROFESSES THAT SHE ALWAYS WAS AND IS A DAUGHTER OF THE ROMAN CHURCH.

The Queen is represented with a book in her left hand and a crucifix in her right.

Of this and the other paintings, above referred to, the following account by the late Right Reverend Bishop Kyle, Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District of Scotland, will be read with interest. The learned prelate writes:—"The large picture of Queen Mary belonged once to Mrs. Elizabeth Curle, wife and widow of Gilbert Curle, one of the Queen's Secretaries during the last years of her life, and at her death. Mrs. Curle herself was one of the attendants at her execution. When, and by whom it was painted, I have never learned. The attire and attitude of the principal figure being the same in which, it is said, Mary appeared on the scaffold, seem to testify decisively that the picture

\* Meaning the *Scol's College, Douai.*

is not what can be called an original—that is traced from the living subject under the painter's eye. The adjuncts were evidently added by another and an inferior artist, but when, I have no means of knowing. Mrs. Curle survived her mistress long, at least thirty years. She had two sons who both became Jesuits. Of one, John, little is known. He died in Spain. The other Hippolytus, was long Superior, and a great benefactor of the Scotch College of Douai. To that college he bequeathed the property, not inconsiderable, which he derived from his mother, and among the rest the very picture now at Blairs. The picture remained in that college till the French Revolution. At the wreck of the college it was taken from its frame, and being rolled up, was concealed\* in a chimney, the fireplace of which was built up, and was so preserved. After the peace of 1815, it was taken from its place of concealment, and conveyed first to Paris, but ultimately to Scotland, through the late Bishop Paterson and the Reverend John Farquharson, who being, the latter Principal, the former Prefect of Studies, in the Douai College at the time of the Revolution, identified it as the picture that had been kept there, according to the tradition mentioned above.

Of the smaller picture of Queen Mary I have

\* The late Rev. Charles Gordon, (well-known in Aberdeen as Priest Gordon, having been in charge of the Roman Catholic congregation for sixty years,) then a student in the college, assisted in concealing the picture.

heard no history ; but from its inscription and appearance I am inclined to think that it must have been drawn when Mary was a young girl in France before the first of her marriages, so that, harsh and unartistic as is its execution, I look upon it as a *real original*, and perhaps the only one in existence.

We have no account of the artist by whom, or the time when, the picture of Cardinal Beaton was done. It was preserved from time immemorial in the Scotch College at Rome, down to the invasion of that city by the French in 1798. It was then sold for a trifle, purchased off a stand in the street by a Scotch artist of the name of Morrison, and restored by him to Abbé McPherson, late rector of that college, who had known it as part of the college property, and by him brought to Blairs. Of the excellence of its execution as a work of art there can be no doubt.\*

There is another painting, that of the Chevalier St. George—James III. as he was called. "This portrait was originally the property of John, Earl of Middleton, and presented by him, along with some other memorials, to the Scotch College, Paris," from which it passed to Blairs. The painting measures sixty-eight by fifty inches, and represents the prince in armour and pointing with a scroll in his hand to a map of his ancestral dominions. By his side is a page, who is supposed to be a scion of

\* Memorials, *Angus and Mearns*, II., p. 253, &c.

the house of Middleton. This was a Kincardineshire family ennobled in 1660. The second earl was outlawed by the high court of justiciary in 1694, and his estates were forfeited by act of parliament, 2nd July, 1695, on account of his adherence to the cause of the exiled James II. There are also portraits of Prince Charles Edward and the Cardinal Duke of York (the latter a very good painting), as also of several Scotch Catholic bishops.

With regard to the college itself, there are at present upwards of seventy students, with a president and staff of professors, all in residence. Candidates for the priesthood are sent here to begin their course, and after passing through the arts classes (in which particular attention is paid to the classics) they proceed for the study of Philosophy and Divinity to the Scots Colleges in Rome and Valladolid, to Paris, or to the Diocesan Seminary at Glasgow. An enlarged college is urgently required, as Blairs is now altogether inadequate to the needs of the Catholic Church in Scotland, owing to its expansion during the last quarter of a century.

#### ESTATE OF AUCHLUNIES.

IN 1535, when the Templar lands of Maryculter were broken up and sold, the estates presently



known as Auchlunies, Heathcot, Shannaburn, and Westertown were, under the title of "the lands of Auchlunies," acquired by a member of the Aberdeen burgess family of Collinson or Collison. The family name appears among the older group of surnames to be found in early local records, and the writer of the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen," in referring to the Collisons of Auchlunies says, "of which their family there have been fifteen generations." Among the early references to the family is the mention made of two brothers, David and John, both of whom were admitted burgesses of guild of Aberdeen during the middle of the fifteenth century. The position of the brothers, socially, may be easily determined, since one of them married Agnes Fichet, a daughter of Mathew Fichet at one time alderman of the burgh. The issue of this union was a family of three sons and one daughter.

The eldest son, John Collison, was for long connected with municipal life, and was elected provost in 1521. He married Elizabeth Leslie, the only daughter of Alexander Leslie, the first baron of Wardis, by whom he had a son John, and a daughter Jean who married the first Irvine of the neighbouring estate of Kingcausie. It is believed that the provost was the first of the Collisons who were lairds of Auchlunies. The stone effigies of the first laird and his spouse Elizabeth Leslie, may still be seen lying in one of the window sills of the West Church, where they were removed from Collison's Aisle when the latter place was used

as the chamber for the heating apparatus of the adjoining churches. On his death, about 1535, he was succeeded in the estate by his son John. Little or nothing is known of this second laird, further than that he married Janet Seton, and had issue, of whom the eldest son Gilbert became next proprietor. Gilbert Collison was for many years one of the magistrates of Aberdeen, and also for a time tacksmen of the Mains of Murtle, while he appears also to have held the lands of Foresterhill, as he is found so designed in various deeds. He married Janet Seton, and had a family of one son and three daughters. The son John Collison, on his father's death, became proprietor, and is perhaps the best known of the lairds. He was, after serving in several minor offices of the council, elected provost of Aberdeen in 1594, and subsequently represented the burgh in the Scottish Parliament. He took a great interest in the reparation of the northern Aisle of St. Nicholas Church, Aberdeen, known in pre-reformation days as the *Aisle of the Holy Blood*, but which has since been called Collison's Aisle. He was twice married, his first wife being Bessie Leslie, daughter of William Leslie, fourth baron of Wardis; his second, Jean Hay, who survived him. The family, so far as known, consisted of Thomas, the heir, Alexander, Paul, Gilbert, John who died in 1624, and "ane berne" who was buried in St. Nicholas Churchyard on 7th October, 1595. Provost Collison died in August, 1621. He does not appear to have resided at Auchlunies, and it is probable that the mansion

house was not erected till a considerably later time. When elected to the provostship he resided in Torry, and this being deemed a disadvantage, the council took the matter into consideration and resolved that he should "transport himself, wyff, bairnis, and familie to this burgh, and dwell therein during the tyme of his office, and be reasoun he hes not a ludging off his auin within this burght, ordanit Alexander Ewyn, Deane off Gild, to prouyd for ane ludging to him."

In one of the many witch trials which took place about this time, a curious incident in the early history of Provost Collison was revealed in the "dittay" or charge made against "Johnnet Wischert, Spous of Johnne Leyis." The counts of the indictment include the following:—Item thow beand nwrische to Issobell Collisoun, sister germann to John Collisoun, provest, efter thow hed fosterit the said Issobell, thow desyrit thair mother that thow micht hef the said John Collisoun to foster and nwriche ; quha, knowing that thi milk was neir away, refusit to gif him the to foster. Immediatlie thaireftir, thow past furth of the hows, and bocht rottoun poyson to haif poysonit the said John ; and the mother of the said John persewing the to be in ane furie and rage, suspectit that thow wald haif murtherit him ; and therefor Meriorie Forbes and Meriorie Gray incontinent rypit the, and gat wpon the the forsaid poyson quhairwith thow thocht to haif murthourit and poysonit him. Testifeit be the said John Collisoun [and] Meriorie

Forbes.”<sup>1</sup> The charges against the poor woman were so very circumstantial that the assize had no difficulty in declaring her to be “ane common witche and soscirar,” and she was thereupon sentenced to be “brint to the deid.”<sup>2</sup>

Provost Collison was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was served heir on 14th June, 1623. He married Jean Menzies of the Pitfodels family, and was for some time a baillie of Aberdeen. They had at least two sons, Thomas and Gilbert, both of whom were admitted burgesses of Aberdeen.

Thomas was succeeded in the estate by his son Charles Collison, who, on 9th September, 1681, was served heir to his father in the whole lands with salmon fishings, &c., described as lying in the lordship and regality of “Torphichen.” Other lands, including Nether Skellmuir in the parish of Tarves, were acquired, but by 1749, when Charles Collison died, the financial affairs of the family were at a very low ebb. The lands of Auchlunies were heavily mortgaged, and the interest not having been paid, proceedings were instituted in the Court of Session at the instance of James Gordon of Banchory, the mortgagee. Under a decret of sale of the Court of Session the property was sold for £23,900 scots to James Brand, merchant in Cullen,<sup>3</sup> who, after holding it for fifteen years, sold it to Patrick Souper, merchant in Aberdeen.

1. Spalding Club Miscellany, I., p. 93.

2. *Ibid*, p. 97.

3. Title Deeds of Estate.

In 1771 Theophilus Ogilvie, collector of customs in Aberdeen, became the proprietor by purchase. During his ownership he feued off the lands of Eastertown (now Heathcot), Westertown, and Shannaburn. In 1810 the remainder was bought by Alexander Gordon, who afterwards succeeded to the estate of Ellon, on the death, in 1845, of the Hon. William Gordon.

Gordon, who spent the early part of his life in the army, served under the gallant but unfortunate Sir John Moore, and passed through the Peninsular War. He afterwards became secretary to the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, and was private secretary to the Earl of Ripon, when president of the Board of Control. He was highly esteemed, both for his excellence as a landlord and for his remarkable strength of character. He married Albinia Elizabeth Cumberland, by whom he had five sons and three daughters. One of the sons, Richard Lewis Hobart Gordon, midshipman R. N., "was drowned, 20th May, 1835, at the wreck of H.M.S. 'Challenger,' near Molquilla, on the coast of Chili, in the performance of a dangerous service essential to the safety of his shipmates, for which he had volunteered." Another son, Bertie E. M. Gordon, was Colonel of the 91st Argyllshire Highlanders, and it was owing mainly to his judicious and gallant conduct that the lives of his men were saved on board the "Abercromby Robertson" when she was wrecked in Table Bay.<sup>1</sup>

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 349.

Gordon held the property until 1834, when he sold it to Peter Duguid, merchant and banker in Aberdeen, who, in 1827, had acquired other properties near Inverurie. Mr. Duguid died on 1st November, 1838. He was succeeded by his son Peter, the present proprietor, who resides on his estate of Bourtie. He is married to a daughter of Archer Irvine Fortescue of Kingcausie.

#### ESTATE OF HEATHCOT.

THIS estate, which at one time formed part of the lands of Auchlunies, and went by the name of Eastertown, was sold in 1798 by Theophilus Ogilvie, collector of customs in Aberdeen, to Thomas Gordon of Premnay,<sup>1</sup> whose father James Gordon at one time owned the estate of Banchory in the adjoining parish.

Gordon was succeeded in 1820 by his sister, Lady Mary Bannerman, widow of the eminent physician, Sir Alexander Bannerman of Kirkhill, in the parish of Dyce, who held the appointment of Professor of Medicine in King's College and University of Aberdeen.

In 1822 John Garioch became proprietor, and three years later acquired a further portion of Auchlunies from its then proprietor Alexander Gordon. He erected the mansion house, and took

1. Title Deeds of Estate.

a great interest in the management and improvement of the property. Miss Margaret Garioch, sister of the previous proprietor, succeeded, and at her death, her trustees sold the lands to James Fraser, merchant in Aberdeen, on whose decease the property was exposed to public sale, when it was bought by Adam Mitchell, builder in Aberdeen.

Mr. Mitchell was a native of the parish of Kennethmont, his father, James Mitchell, being tenant of the farm of "Christ's Kirk," the reputed scene of the poem "Christ's Kirk on the Green," by James I. When about twenty years of age, he entered upon a term of apprenticeship with Macdonald and Leslie of the Aberdeen Granite Works, and he used, not without some pride, to point out part of the pedestal of the statue of the Duke of Gordon in Castle Street, Aberdeen, as a specimen of his apprentice workmanship. He was in business on his own account for about a quarter of a century, carrying out large and important contracts, such as the erecting of bridges over the Don at Strathdon and Kinaldie ; the New Grammar School, and St. Mary's Church, Aberdeen ; the mansion houses of Corse, Glenmuick, and Lochinver, and the Palace Buildings, Aberdeen. One of his largest works was the formation of the Denburn Valley Railway, and the Joint Station, Aberdeen. He died on 28th January, 1877.

During Mr. Mitchell's proprietorship the mansion house, which stands in a pleasantly

wooded and beautiful locality, was converted into a hydropathic establishment. It has since been much enlarged, and during the summer season its accommodation is taxed to the utmost by tourists and others in quest of a quiet holiday.

In 1880 the whole property was acquired by Alexander Milne Ogston, whose estate of Ardoe lies contiguous to it.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

(*St. Mary, Virgin.*)

IN the thirteenth century the Knights Templars resident in Maryculter were expected to attend the services at the parish church of Peterculter on the opposite side of the river Dee, but in consequence of floods and ice they and their domestics were frequently unable to get across. They, therefore, built a church of their own on the south side, and petitioned the Abbot of Kelso, as superior, to allow them to use it as their "Parish Church." The petition was carefully drawn up, and narrated the many disadvantages under which the residents on the south side of the parish laboured, "to the peril of their souls." In 1287 the license was granted, and it was confirmed by subsequent charters.<sup>1</sup> From this date, therefore, as is elsewhere mentioned, the church, which was dedicated to St. Mary, was known as the Parish Church of Maryculter.

1. Regis. Epis. Abdl., II., pp. 288-93.



In structure it was superior to many country churches, having its windows and doors of neat pointed arches. It was in the Gothic style of architecture, and measured about eighty-three feet in length, by about twenty-eight feet in breadth, the walls being three feet three inches thick. Although now in ruins, the greater part of the south wall still stands to an average height of eighteen inches, while the east wall remains to a height of about four and a half feet. One stone of the east jamb of the south doorway is still in position ; the shattered piscina is still in the south wall near the east end ; and there is also a heap of moulded stones, including jambs, arches, dripstones, &c.<sup>1</sup> The piscina had a delicately fluted bowl projecting from the face of the wall, being carried by a small shaft with capital, base moulding and circular plinth. It had altogether been unusually refined and beautiful.<sup>2</sup> "A part of the east end was divided from the main body, and was called an aisle, being the burial place of the family of Pitfodels to whom the land once belonged."<sup>3</sup>\* The only gallery was in the

1. *Transactions Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society*, 1887, p. 27.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Archæologia Scotica*, III., p. 16.

\* There was, for upwards of a century, preserved at Maryculter the effigies of a male and female beautifully carved in freestone, and believed to represent Thomas Menzies of Pitfodels, and Marion Reid, his wife. The figure of the former, represented in armour with a sword by its side, had a helmet for a pillow ; while the latter was dressed in long robes, with the head lying upon an embroidered cushion. The hands of both were shown in the attitude of devotion,

west end, the front of which was ornamented with various carvings, and on it for long hung the "joggis." When the building was deserted in the end of last century, those who possessed seats were allowed to remove them, and a few availed themselves of the privilege, one being for long preserved at Tilbouries.<sup>1</sup> The holy water stone, which was beautifully ornamented with Gothic figures, long stood "in Petfoedels cloess" as a poultry drinking trough,<sup>2</sup> but it has since disappeared.

The bell was famous for its fine rich tone. Only two in the district were said to be equal to it—one being the bell of Trinity Chapel, Aberdeen. They were all three made together and brought from Holland at the same time. The one at Maryculter was cracked and rendered useless through being pulled down during the furious ringing by certain fishermen who had gone to the graveyard with a funeral.<sup>3</sup>

About 1780 the building began to fall into comparative decay, and strong complaints having been lodged by the parishioners against its inconvenient situation, the heritors resolved to build a new church about a mile further to the south, and

1. *Archæologia Scotica*, III., p. 16.

2. Letter, Advocates' Library, Aberdeen.

3. *Archæologia Scotica*, III., p. 16.

and at the feet of each lay a dog. It is supposed that the effigies were taken for safety to Maryculter from the West Church, Aberdeen, during its reparation in the middle of last century, and they were recently removed thither and placed on one of the window sills.

near to the centre of the parish. Accordingly in 1787 a substantial new church, capable of accommodating 460 persons, was erected, and the old church, which had done duty for five centuries, was abandoned, and speedily became a ruin as already described.

The pulpit of the present church, which was presented in 1886 by Mrs. Gordon in memory of her deceased husband, Captain A. H. Gordon of Fyvie and Maryculter, is a chaste and handsome piece of workmanship. There are five beautiful memorial windows in the church, three of which were presented in 1886 by Mrs. Kinloch in memory of her deceased husband, Alexander John Kinloch of Park and Altries. The other two were presented in 1887 by the Kinloch family in memory of Mrs. Kinloch herself.

The communion utensils include two very fine silver cups, the work of Alexander Forbes, silver-smith, Aberdeen, each of which bears the following inscription :—

THIS CUP WT. ITS FELLOW WAS BOUGHT WT. THE MONEY  
MORTIFIED BY THE LAIRD OF KINGCAUSY DURING MR. NAPIER'S  
MINISTRY AT MARY CULTER,

1731.

#### MINISTERS.

1574. Alexander Robertson, Reader,<sup>1</sup> at an annual salary of £20 scots. At this time Strachan

1. Collections *Aberdeen and Banff*, p. 226.

and Nigg, along with Maryculter, were served by the same minister.<sup>1</sup>

1585. John Milne, Vicar. On 27th August, 1602, he was "inquirit if he would accept the ministry of Maryculter in terms of last Provincial Assembly," and he declared on 29th June, 1604, that "he is not presently resolved." Being again demanded by the Moderator of the Presbytery on 28th August, 1609, "if he fand himself inabill to accept of the ministry at the said kirk? Answerit he could not find himself meet for it," and, therefore, he was ordained to "give place to ane qualified man," and desired to "demit the stipend, and leave for planting of that kirk. Answerit quhen the minister is provided of ane living he suld do all things be advyce of the Presbyterie."<sup>2</sup>

16—. Andrew Milne, Minister. He married Marjory Menzies, who, on the death of her father, David Menzies, succeeded to the lands of Kirktown of Banchory-Devenick. The Milnes, however, sold these lands, in 1618, to Alexander Garden of Banchory, at the price of Three thousand merks, but subject to a wadset of Two thousand merks upon Mains of Banchory held by Gilbert Club, burgess of Aberdeen.<sup>3</sup>

16—. Alexander Leask, Minister, admitted before 21st October, 1651. On 19th March, 1679, he was rebuked by the Synod for having entered into a

1. Jervise's *Epitaphs*, I., p. 30.

2. Scott's *Fasts*, VI., p. 505.

3. Chartulary of Banchory Estate.

"symoniacall paction" with Mr. John Lumsden in order that the latter might be presented to the Church of Maryculter.<sup>1</sup> He died before June, 1675. 1675. James Garden translated from New Machar, and inducted in the summer of this year. In the spring of the following year he was translated to Balmerino. He was the son of Alex. Garden, Minister of Forgue, and was a graduate of the University of Aberdeen.<sup>2</sup>

1678. John Lumsden was presented to the charge, but his trials for ordination were interrupted in consequence of the "symoniacall paction" before mentioned. His license to preach was withdrawn, but on 22nd April, 1679, on acknowledging his fault, he had it restored to him.<sup>3</sup>

1679. George White. Translated from the second charge of Ayr, he was admitted in the autumn of this year. He was deposed in December, 1718, for being concerned in the late rebellion, but afterwards intruded upon Newhills. He died in 1724.<sup>4</sup>

1719. William Abercrombie, son of Baillie Robert Abercrombie of Aberdeen, was licensed by the Aberdeen Presbytery, and ordained at Maryculter, 28th May, 1719. From that date to 27th September following he had to preach in the churchyard or schoolhouse, through Mr. White, the late incumbent, intruding into the church. He was translated

1. Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 505, and Presbytery Records.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. Presbytery Records and Scott's *Fasti*, VI., p. 506.

to Skene on 15th October, 1721, and died there on 6th June, 1746.<sup>1</sup>

1722. Archibald Napier, who had for the previous two years been Minister of Bourtie, was presented to Maryculter by the patron, Sir Alexander Cumín of Culter, Bart., on 7th April, 1722, and inducted 28th November following. While engaged in his ministerial visitations he died suddenly at the farm of Swellhead, on 4th November, 1761, aged 74 years.<sup>2</sup>

1763. John Glennie. A native of the parish, he had been Minister of Drumoak for the previous thirteen years, and was admitted 3rd June of this year. He married Jean, daughter of Arthur Mitchell, Minister of Skene, by whom he had issue eight sons and two daughters. Of the sons, John became Minister of Dunnottar, and George was elected Collegiate Minister of the West Church, Aberdeen, and Professor of Moral Philosophy in Marischal College. Mr. Glennie was a D.D. of the University and King's College, Aberdeen, and died 14th December, 1801, aged 81½ years.<sup>3</sup> His tombstone bears that he was "a virtuous, learned, and eloquent man, endowed with rare piety from his earliest years," and that "he discharged all the duties of the pastoral office with the greatest credit to himself, and advantage to his people." For many years he kept an academy, which was

1. Presbytery and Session Records, &c.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

attended by from twenty to twenty-six young gentlemen, some from the West Indies and America, and others from England.

1802. William Paul. Licensed by the Presbytery of Fordoun, 12th August, 1795, presented to Maryculter by the patron, Robert William Duff of Fetteresso, in May, 1802, and ordained 12th August following. Having been appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy in King's College, Aberdeen, he demitted his charge at Maryculter on 17th October, 1811, and died 3rd March, 1834.<sup>1</sup>

1812. John Bower. Son of John Bower, teacher Longacre, Aberdeen, licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen, on 9th May, 1810, presented to Maryculter in January, 1812, and ordained on 7th May thereafter. He died, 18th December, 1866, in his eighty-first year. "He was altogether a man to love—gentle, kindly, guileless in his nature, who strove to do his duty faithfully and zealously" . .<sup>2</sup>

1867. Charles Nairn Barker Melville. Ordained, 15th August, 1867. He died on 25th December, 1875.<sup>3</sup>

1876. George Duncan. Licensed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen. Ordained 1st May, 1876. Through his exertions the church has been much improved, an organ introduced, and a commodious hall built at the north end.

1. Presbytery and Session Records.

2. Separate Register of Presbytery, &c.

3. *Ibid.*

## SESSION RECORDS.

THE Session Registers of Maryculter, so far as in the custody of the Session Clerk, extend to five volumes, and commence in the year 1719. The entries refer chiefly to cases of discipline, and the management of funds under the control of the Session. No parish on lower Deeside, however, can prove to have relieved so many beggars, of whom it was nothing unusual for eighteen and twenty to be in waiting at the close of the sermon. In 1721 "the Minister intimated his intention to begin two sermons, and the Elders were exhorted to be at all pains for dealing with the people to stay the second sermon." The Elders would seem to have received special attention, for they were not only required to be regular and circumspect in their conducting of family worship in their own homes, but in 1726 "they were recommended to behave decently in serving the tables at the communion." On 11th December, 1727, "Elizabeth Smith, being found guilty of scolding and behaving in an indecent manner, was rebuked, and ordered to bridle her unruly tongue in the fear of God as becometh a christian." A turbulent and somewhat lawless spirit seems to have possessed certain of the parishioners, as evidenced by the entry of 5th May, 1734. "James Jack today appeared before the pulpit and was severely rebuked for his breach of Sabbath by beating a young man and throwing



him into a mill dam, and that during the time of divine service." The sacred character of the church and its service did not always act as a deterrent, for, in 1739, "Alexander Lyon appeared before the pulpit, and was rebuked for having made a great disturbance in church during the singing, by pulling and dragging a man out of his seat." The dread of infection had alarmed the parishioners to such an extent that the Session had to interpose. On 23rd April, 1797, "rumours having been current that a family was infected with a disease known as the 'Sivans,' the Session had them medically examined, and the Minister read from the pulpit the Doctors' certificate that they were in perfect health."

#### MARYCULTER CLUB.

IN May, 1830, a Club, limited to a membership of twenty-one, was established under the title of "The Mill of Maryculter Friendly Society." It numbered among its members many gentlemen occupying high social position in Aberdeen and the neighbouring district.

The custom of the Club was to meet and dine together at least once every year, and although special apartments were reserved for the use of the members at the Mill Inn of Maryculter, they were by no means confined to that place—Perth, Alford, Kintore, Pitcaple, Inverurie, Cove, Kincardine

O'Neil, Monymusk, Greenwich, and other places having been honoured with a visit.

The objects and transactions of the Club are interesting as giving us a glimpse of the customs and habits of half a century ago. They are a small detail in the great picture of a social life that differed vastly from that of the time when the Templars were the proprietors and rulers of Maryculter, and very markedly from that of our own day.

Some account of the Club is here given in the hope that those who are falling into the "sear and yellow leaf" will like to hear something of "the good old days when they were boys," and that the younger generation will not consider it uninteresting to compare the times and habits of their fathers and grandfathers with their own.

Although it may be possible to doubt whether our social customs and amusements have changed for the better, there can be no question as to the fact that they have changed in a very striking degree.

In looking at the multifarious ways in which our forefathers sought to relieve the monotony of life, and the channels by which their superfluous animal spirits found escape, it is easy enough to find much to blame, and to make us congratulate ourselves that we are not as they were. When it is seen that gentlemen of position and high social respectability enjoyed themselves in the fashion described in the following extracts, we may be

inclined to shake the head or point the finger of scorn, but there are some very evident facts that should mitigate the severity of our sentence. Strict moralists condemn without mercy the alleged devotion of our near ancestors to the cup that cheers and often inebriates. No reasonable man will defend or condone excess in either eating or drinking, but—and regard is specially had to what follows—we must not always credit to the full extent the stories of these drinking bouts, even when told by those taking part in them. It was unfortunately held to be no disgrace to overstep the bounds of sobriety—in fact it is a sad truth that to get drunk was considered the mark of a gentleman. Consequently to say of persons that they had drunk to the stage of intoxication was almost a form of compliment, and was often paid with as little ground as are compliments of a more commendable kind. Besides, drink did not work much harm to these men, for many reasons. They did not live at the same high speed as we do, their brain was not kept abnormally active, their heart and other organs were not subjected to incessant and heavy pressure, and these circumstances placed them in a far better position than their worried and hurried descendants for escape from the injurious effects of alcoholic stimulation. Again, they drank when the business of the day was over, and when they had heartily partaken of food. The cup passed that digestion might be improved and good-fellowship promoted. Both morally and

physically these ancient convivialists are not to be mentioned in the same breath with their contemptible successors—the modern “nippers.”

Is it said that there was much frivolity and no little roughness and vulgarity in these social conventions? What is vulgar in one age may not be so in another; each period must be judged in the light of its own circumstances. As to the frivolity, it is easy to point to far more frivolous amusements that are in favour with the same class now. After all, it is not so pitiable, as at first sight seems, that people of intelligence, and standing in business and the professions, should have found the rollicking cantrips alluded to in the following pages pleasant means of driving away the shadows of life and of lightening the burdens of duty, for they were also intended to, and did, promote much geniality and brotherliness, so that, while our modern manners and social habits may be free from some of the moral dangers of the bygone generation, we have also lost much of their kindly social instincts, and their strong feeling of brotherhood. Life then was not one long uncompromising battle for individual interests, each man ready to push his brother to the wall that he himself might pass to the goal of his own advancement in wealth or station. Let us not despise or overblame our jovial forefathers; they were in many respects more noble men than we are, and were often more mindful of the much forgotten truth that life's truest pleasures are increased by being shared. If charity covers a

multitude of sins, the social failings of our progenitors will be covered by their brotherly feeling, their genial sympathy, and their warm hearts that made them not forget that :—

“ Affliction’s sons are brothers in distress ;  
A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss ! ”

The Minute Book of the Club was in the custody of the late Colonel Jopp, who obligingly allowed the following extracts to be made from it. The Minutes, by a rule of the Club, were written by each member in succession, which accounts for their variety of style. They give a fair idea of the rollicking joviality of its merry members, most of whom bore a Club title. The subjoined list will enable readers to identify the persons spoken of under high-sounding and often grotesque designations.

William Allardyce, Wine Merchant, “ First  
Honorary Butler and Grand Purveyor.”

James Black, Merchant, “ Lord Willowbank,”  
“ The Lord-Chief-Justice, Lord-Justice-General, and Lord-Justice-Clerk.”

James Kilgour of Bethelnie, “ Heritor of that  
Ilk.”

Robert Henderson, of H.M. Customs, Aberdeen,  
afterwards at Portsmouth.

Charles Hacket, Wine Merchant, Aberdeen.

Alexander Gordon, Advocate, Mains of Culter  
“ Lord High Commissary.”

John Angus, Advocate, Town Clerk, "Grand Secretary, and Keeper of the Club's Records."

- Robert Shand, Advocate, "Grand Chaplain, Poet-Laureate, and Knight of Kaw-Wa in the Colony of New Zealand."

Patrick Kilgour of Woodside, "Earl of St. John's Wood in the County of Middlesex."

William Skinner, Advocate, "H.M.'s Advocate, Public Prosecutor, and Attorney-General."

James Jopp, M.D., Surgeon of H.M. 36th Regiment of Foot, stationed in 1847 at Corfu, then "Grand Mediciner of that, and the Club's other Ionian Islands."

Robert Jopp, Seggat, "Farmer and Rider to the Club."

Archibald Simpson, Architect and Surveyor, "Grand Master Mason."

A. Dingwall, Jr.

Alexander Gibbon of Johnston, "Marquis of Johnston Lodge."

Arthur Thomson, Banker, "Principal Consul to the Club, and Lord High Admiral of the Fleet."

George Glennie Anderson, formerly of Old Aberdeen, afterwards of the City of London.

Robert Moir, Wine Merchant, "Second Honorary Butler and Grand Purveyor, and Principal Angler to the Club."

Robert Abercrombie, Rothnie.

George Silver of Netherley, and Balnagubs.

George Forbes of Springhill, afterwards of Auld Reekie.

Lewis Crombie of Kirkhill, "Baron Nigg and Viscount of Kirkhill."

John Mair Gerrard of Midstrath, "Baron Midstrath, Earl of Italy and Count of Vienna."

John Glennie, Kennerty, "Grand Miller and Maltsman."

Andrew Shepherd, late of the H. E. I. C. H. S. "Mr. Sergeant Shepherd."

Basil Fisher of Devanha and Sandilands, "Grand Trumpeter and Bugler." [Title conferred "in respect of his having played upon a Bugle in a Gig all the way out from Aberdeen to Kincardine O'Neil."]

Alexander Hadden of Persley, "Grand Master Mason, Viscount Persley and Marquis of Cruive."

Newell Burnett, Advocate, County Clerk, "the Keeper of the Club's Register of the Seasons."

William Jopp, Wine Merchant, "Third Honorary Butler and Grand Purveyor, and the Club's Plenipo at the Courts of Spain, Portugal, and other wine growing countries."

John Blaikie, Advocate, Town Clerk of Kintore, "Baron of Craigiebuckler, and Receiver-General of the Bishop's Rents, Chaplain's Dues, and other Ecclesiastical Revenues of the Club."

James Simpson, Advocate, "Grand Interpreter and Linguist with all the fees and emoluments that he can catch." [Title conferred "through his showing an intimate knowledge of the unknown tongues."]

Thomas Blaikie, "Moderator of the Club." [Title conferred in respect of his being at the time representative for the City at the General Assembly.]

William Chambers Hunter, of Tillery, "Grand Huntsman."

Thomas Todd, Maryculter House, "Grand Limner to the Club." [Title conferred "in respect of his showing some talent for portrait painting."]

Alexander Anderson, Advocate, "Lord Mormond and Baron of Stocket Muirs."

John Bramwell, Banker, "Grand Cashier," afterwards of Melbourne.

Thomas Anderson, Manager, Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company, "Baron Weepers of Mortcloth in the County of Gravesend, and of Saint Paul's Churchyard in the City of London." [Title conferred "through his having attended a funeral of one of his stewardesses in an attire of ultra lugubriousness."]

William Partridge, Ardmurdo.

Robert Fletcher, Accountant.



## VI. Meeting held 20th November, 1834.

At Willowbank day and date aforesaid, and within the Dining Room of James Black, Esquire, of that Ilk, was held the first pro-re-nata meeting of the Mill of Mary Culter Friendly Society, called in virtue of a gilt circular from the Lord President, "Willow-Bank," *in propria* for the express purpose of receiving the Humble Petition of John Gerrard, Esq., commonly called "Midstrath," praying to be admitted a member of the Society, a vacancy having occurred by the translation of Robert Henderson to the Town of Portsmouth in England. After the members of the Society had dined and the Ladies had retired, John, the Macer in waiting, received from the chair positive orders to keep the door shut and not allow any person or persons, on any pretext whatever, dead or alive, to enter within the precincts of the Court. A Court of Admission was then formed as follows. Presiding Grand Judge—The Lord Willowbank. Admission Lords—Lords Moir, Forbes, and Crombie, Allardyce "Grand Purveyor," and Thomson "Lord Admiral of the Club," the gentlemen of the Jury being the remanent members present. The Court was then fenced, according to law, and the Petitioner having taken his place at the bar, the Lord Willowbank, from the bench in a very grand and appalling address opened the business by stating that he had received a petition from John Gerrard of Midstrath, praying to be admitted a member of the Mill of Mary Culter Friendly Society, in such style and manner

as the right worthy members of that happy fraternity might think fitting and proper.

On the petition being read *viva voce* the Petitioner was desired, and required, to retire in the custody of John, the Macer in waiting, until the Jury had considered the application. The Petitioner retired accordingly, and the Jury having been graciously pleased to entertain the application, the Petitioner was desired to make his appearance at the Bar of the Court in the dress and robes of a "Lord of the Mill of Mary Culter Session Justiciary and Friendly Society," whereupon John, the Macer in waiting, having sounded the bugle the door opened, and with a most profound salaam announced "The Petitioner Lord Probationer approacheth."—[Here the effect was grand.]

The Probationer, in the full costume of the Order of a Lord of the Mill of Mary Culter Friendly Society and in the custody of John the Macer in waiting, was seen in the distance approaching slowly in a most dignified and puissant manner, and having entered the Court under a heavy flourish of trumpets, the Lord Willowbank addressed him under the highly astounding title of "Lord Midstrath," Judicial Member of the Mill of Mary Culter Friendly Society, to which distinguished honour, he had now the pleasure of informing him, he had been raised and elevated. The Lord Willowbank then requested Lord Midstrath to take his seat upon the bench, and sincerely hoped that during the time that he and his learned and august

brother "Midstrath" might sit thereon together, they would always endeavour to dispense justice and equity, with the same urbanity, humanity, and decorum, which had hitherto most distinctly marked the proceedings of this Court and Society. He had now sat on that bench for many years as Supreme Judge, and he would certainly say *this*, which was simply *that* the Pannels, in general, were the nicest people in the world he had met with for a long time, and it was a comfort and satisfaction to him to think that they were always most remarkably pleased—often indeed delighted—with the sentence passed upon them. He—"Willowbank"—was fully aware that owing to the rapidity of justice in some countries punishment did precede the crime, yet he had never taken advantage of it in this, nor did he ever intend to do so—No—he spurned the shabby action.

After his Lordship had delivered this address, which was given in his own peculiar style, he asked Lord Midstrath whether he had brought any Certificates of Character or Diplomas—as these were indispensably necessary, before acceptance of the Seals of Office. The Lord Midstrath looked grave. He had brought no Certificates.

But my Lord Willowbank said, "Perhaps there may be some person in this house with whom Your Lordship is acquainted who can speak to your character, and I desire that John the Macer may pull the bell." Here John the Macer pulled the bell—and who should appear but the Lord

Midstrath's own faithful Nigger, Massa Nicholas, who being up to "de ting or two in de foreign countree" had taken the precaution of bringing along with him a most ample Certificate of "Massa Gerrar's" good character and accomplishments, which he instantly verified in presence, and having counted his beads, and bolted a glass and a half of "Elias Gibb's" Rum, he delivered the Certificate into the hands of Lord Willowbank, and retired from the Court. And this certificate, for the benefit of the absent members, and the credit of the Black Man, was ordered to be engrossed by the Secretary in the Minutes of this Meeting verbatim, and the genuine signature of the faithful nigger to be adhibited to the same. Here follows the certificate thus :—

Certificate of  
"The Count Nicaolas de Costa Rica  
commonly called  
Gerrard's Black Man."

---

I will certify dat my own Massa, Massa Gerar, son of Maama Gerar, is de real good Massa Gerar wal I serve for many year in de hot countree where de smoke de pipee verre muchee, and drink de sangaree verree—and I tink dat my own Massa make good jodge, and ould too for he no floggee, no, no—he only drinkee—he only sleepee—and he smokee verree muchee—but den him head workee—and him speakee. . . .

Nicolas . . .

The foregoing certificate was considered by the Court and Jury to be uncommonly satisfactory—and the Lord Midstrath having been then, and not till then, presented with the Seals of Office—and walked round the mahogany three different times—while each member of the Court placed his hands upon his head—and thereafter having turned himself eleven times round on his left foot, as they did in the olden time and as is the imperturbable usage of this Society sitting on admission (all which his Lordship performed in the most dignified style) his Lordship was declared by the Lord Willowbank in a most loud and stentorian tone of voice, to have been, and to be, duly elected, admitted, and installed, a Member and a Lord of the Mill of Mary Culter Friendly Society.

A tremendous bumper was then filled to the health of the youngest Member of the Society and drank with all the honours accompanied by the harmony. For all which his Lordship, in an appropriate speech, returned his sincere thanks. P.S. —Here followed the Society's Anthem of "Linky Twine" by Shand. This ended the election and instalment of Lord Midstrath, one of the most striking ceremonies ever witnessed in this or any other Society upon the face of the Earth. And there being no other cases before the Court the meeting re-resolved itself into a regular Pro-re-nata Friendly and spent the evening in that happy manner which ever has, and, it is trusted ever will, characterize

all its proceedings at home or abroad, at sea or ashore.

Signed by all present.

### VII. Meeting of the Club.

At a Pro-re-nata held in the office of Mr. Crombie, 3rd March, 1835, it was unanimously resolved that the Club should extend its undoubted patronage to the Theatre now opened in the City, under the auspices of the Corbit Ryder,—and—Tom Ryder (Corbit's Son) being in attendance, was admitted with the usual ceremonies into the presence of the Club. After due discussion, consideration, and deliberation, the following Dramas viz. "Past ten o'clock on a rainy night," "The Illustrious Stranger," or "Buried Alive," and "Dominique the Deserter" or "the Gentleman in Black,"—were selected by the Club and directed to be performed upon Tuesday, the 17th March current. Tom Ryder was instructed accordingly. One of the Bills of the Club's night is inserted in the Minute Book *in memoriam*. The members of the Club in their uniform of Black Coats, White Vests, and Black Stocks, mustered strong, and the house was, as well it might under such distinguished patronage—a Bumper. Certified the 18th March, 1835.

At a general meeting of the Club held within the Royal Hotel the Second day of June 1835.

. . . The Secretary produced a letter from Mr. Arthur Thomson of this date regretting his inability to attend the Meeting; and requesting that Mr. John Glennie, Farmer at Kennerty and Miller at the Mill thereof, a Candidate for admission, might be proposed as a member of the Club, and Mr. Glennie's nomination having been seconded and no other member proposed, the ballot was regularly put and taken thereon, and, the ballot having been examined and reported upon by the President, the said John Glennie was found to have been unanimously elected, enrolled, and admitted a Member of the Mill of Mary Culter Friendly Society, accordingly, with all powers and privileges, customs, dues and casualties, gratifications, observances and immunities, belonging or that may or can pertain and belong to the Members of said distinguished Society conjunctly or severally—to bruik and enjoy the same as fully and freely as the other members have hitherto, in time past, or shall hereafter in time to come, bruik, possess and enjoy the same in any manner of way, and that without mental reservation or equivocation whatever, according to justice, and as the said John Glennie shall answer, he carrying himself ever as becometh. And the Secretary was instructed to

transmit to Mr. Glennie an extract of this his admission on payment of the ordinary fees.

The same day, considering that Mr. Crombie, one of the members, had presented the Club with a very handsome book, elegantly bound, and having a steel clasp-lock, embossed with silver, in which the minutes and procedure of the Society are now engrossed, the meeting do unanimously vote the best thanks of the Club to Mr. Crombie for his donation, and instruct the Secretary to intimate this their vote of thanks to Mr. Crombie accordingly.

The same day, the meeting fixed Saturday the 27th of June current, for the annual meeting and dinner, to be holden within the Society's apartments at the Mill as hitherto, and they direct due intimation to be made by the Secretary to the members accordingly. The meeting at same time expressed their confident hope that previous to the annual dinner the President and Croupier would hold a solemn conference with the honorary Butler and Grand Purveyor of the Club, as hath hitherto been the invariable and most laudable practice on such occasions.

VII. Annual meeting of the Club held on Saturday, the 2nd day of July, 1836.

The Club breakfasted with Mr. Gordon at Culter House—viands excellent—welcome hearty. The Club then daundered and dined under a



splendid marquee placed upon the lawn in front of the Society's apartments at the Mill. James Black, Esquire, "The Lord Willowbank," presided as Chairman in his usual distinguished style in the unavoidable absence and at the special request of Alexander Gibbon, Esquire, Johnston, Preses. The Club voted their best thanks to Mr. Crombie, one of their members, to whom the marquee belonged, for granting the Club the use of the same, on the occasion and in consideration thereof, and for other weighty reasons them thereunto moving un-animously elected, and do hereby elect and raise him to the Dignity of an Earl of the Club by the style and title of "Earl Kirkhill, Baron Nigg." George Silver, Esq., of Balnagubs and Netherley, Convener of the County of Kincardine, was by acclamation admitted an honorary member of the Club, and he being pressed gave his oath *de fidei administratione officii*. Thereafter the Club unanimously elected Mr. Crombie Preses, and Mr. Gerrard Vice-Preses of the Club for the ensuing year, with full power to the Preses to call and to hold Pro-re-nata meetings whenever and wheresoever he may consider necessary and proper for the honour and dignity and grandeur of the Club.

1837.

The Lord Willowbank having examined the minutes of last meeting finds with *extreme indignation* that there are various *errata et emissiones*, in

so far as the Secretary has omitted to notice the presence of the representative of the Lord of the Manor—also the Convener of the County of Kincardine—and to record the names of the unfortunate individuals who were fined at last meeting, and however painful it must be to his Lordship's feelings to allude to these unpardonable omissions by the worthy Secretary, "*than whom he knows no one better entitled to his high courtesy,*" still, however, his Lordship feels that he would be wanting in duty to his country and to that distinguished Club to which he has the honour to belong, were he for a moment to wink at these omissions and allow the *Guilty Secretary* to pass unpunished. Never shall it be said that his Lordship "Shamed Abraham in that way," his motto has always been "*Non compondere vulnus,*" which means—*Dem me* if I don't fine him. And as his Lordship finds that the Secretary has not entered these particulars in his minutes, and has entirely omitted the trial and execution of that unfortunate man Chalmers, who was sentenced at last meeting for the heinous offence of appearing at "our apartments at the Mill" in a *Square Tailed Tartan Coat*, with *inexpressibles* to match, and a *shocking bad hat*, and for which piece of *unmitigated effrontery* he was condemned to pay "Six bottles of Moir's best Champagne"—being the last sentence of the law. His Lordship is therefore compelled to pass a small sentence upon the Secretary "*instanter,*" in order that the minutes of this Club may be more

regularly kept in all time coming—and that sentence is—That that “*Good Worthy Man*” John Angus, Esquire, the Secretary, shall produce at the next Pro-re-nata “One bottle of the best Champagne,” as a small atonement for past offences, and if his Lordship should again look into this book and find that the Secretary has not recorded the names of these unfortunate individuals on the annexed page, His Lordship will make a shocking example of the Secretary by inflicting upon him the Last Sentence of the Law.

“Willowbank,” Lord President.

At a general meeting of the Club held in No. 34 Castle Street, Aberdeen, the 22nd May, 1837, The Lord Willowbank in the Chair.

After the most consummate deliberation the meeting resolved that the Annual General Meeting should be held this year at Kintore upon Saturday the 10th of June next, and directed the necessary summonses to be issued and directions given accordingly. Translation of Robert Abercrombie, Esq., to the dignity of an Honorary Member. Thereafter the Club for many weighty and puissant reasons them thereunto moving and more especially touching his increasing years and infirmities, he having declared while in his sober senses “that a man can eat and drink only a certain quantity in his lifetime, and that he had arrived at that period when he thought he was about done,” unanimously

elected, admitted and enrolled the said Robert Abercrombie as an honorary member of the Mary Culter Club for all the days and years of his mortal life . . .

1838.

The Ninth annual meeting was held in Mrs. Gordon's Inn at Kincardine O'Neil upon Saturday, the 30th day of June, 1838. Wm. Skinner, President, in the Chair. Archibald Simpson, Vice-President, Croupier.

This was a first rate grand dress convivial meeting. The dinner furnished by Mrs. Gordon, Innkeeper, did the utmost credit to her known talents and hospitality, and the Club directed the Secretary to record the same accordingly.

Mrs. Gordon was called before the Court and duly addressed and admonished from the Bench. The members enjoyed themselves to a late hour, and the Wine Cup circulated freely. After the Society's Anthem had been sung by the Chaplain, the Club elected Lord Midstrath to be President, and Geo. Silver, Yr., of Netherley, to be Vice-President of the Club for the ensuing year in the usual form, with all powers, privileges, and immunities pertaining to their offices respectively. In the edge of the evening Alexander Gordon and Robert Shand, who, since last Annual Festival had purchased the lands of Gateside in the Parish of

Newhills and County of Aberdeen, were tried by the Lord Willowbank and a special Jury—their crime was for the desertion of the Diet before the President had left the Chair—a circumstance altogether unprecedented and unknown in the Annals of the Club. And having been called by their respective names three times at the door to appear in Court, they failed to do so. Whereupon after having been duly put to the Horn by the Grand Trumpeter, in the undoubted exercise of his Office, the Lord Justice Willowbank instantly delivered upon them in their absence the last sentence of the Law, and ordained the said lands of Gateside of which they are portioners as aforesaid, together with the Mosses, Muirs, parts, pendicles, and pertinents of the same, Haill Fishings—as well Salt Water as Fresh Water, and other Accessories thereto belonging, to have been and to be Forfeit and Escheat to the Club For Ever.

The Club having again met at Supper, Compared the said Alexander Gordon and Robert Shand and conjunctly and severally Drank Three Tumblers of Punch in presence of the Club. In respect thereof, and the above having been the first time they were ever known to desert any diet of principal eating or drinking whatsoever or wheresoever, My Lord Willowbank *Ex proprio motu et sua dignitate* Recalled the foregoing sentence, Reponed and Restored the said Alexander Gordon and Robert Shand, Panels, against the same *in toto*, and Ordained the forfeited Lands and Estate

of Gateside with the Fishings and pertinents to be Re-conveyed to them in Integrum.

Thomas Blaikie, Moderator, was then tried for neglecting to produce the usual certificates of Character, and having most contumaciously pleaded that, in respect of his being one of the Baillies of the Burgh of Aberdeen, he was exempt from the jurisdiction of this puissant Club, My Lord Willowbank found the Libel proven, and grossly aggravated by the contumacious Plea of the Panel, Sentenced him accordingly, and Dismissed and Assoilzied him Simpliciter from the Bar.

Grand Pro-re-nata Meeting of the Club Held in  
Merry England Upon Saturday, the 11th day  
of May, 1839,

It having happened by a wonderful combination of circumstances that a numerous Body of the constituent Members of the Club were at the time congregated in the Metropolis of England in their own and the Nation's business, My Lord Midstrath, President of the Club, in exercise of the powers vested in him by virtue of his Office, called a General Pro-re-nata meeting to be held within the Ship Tavern, Greenwich, this Day, and directed the Secretary to issue Summonses accordingly.

There were present on this Illustrious occasion John Mair Gerrard, "Lord Midstrath," President of the Club, Alexander Gordon, Vice-President

(*pro tem.*), Thomas Blaikie, Moderator, Lewis Crombie, "Lord Kirkhill, and Baron Nigg," Alexander Hadden, "Lord Persley," Wm. Allardyce, "Grand Honorary Butler and Grand Purveyor," Robert Shand, "Chaplain," Archibald Simpson, Architect, and John Angus, Secretary. And the President having, in exercise of the Club's known hospitality in a foreign land, authorized each of the Members to invite a friend, there were also present William James Tayler (Rothiemay), Member of the English Bar; David Morice, Johnston, Solicitor, London; James Davidson (Tillychetly), Solicitor, London; Alexander Ross, (Arnage and Bourtie), Wine Merchant, London; Charles Lester of Deptford, Leslie Clark, Dean of Guild of the City of Aberdeen; Alexander Calder, Umquhile of Calder & Coy., Wine Merchants in Aberdeen, now of Upper Woburn Place, London; Thomas Newman Farquhar of Jackston, Solicitor in London, and Alexander Anderson, Advocate in Aberdeen, Guests of the Club.

The Dinner was sumptuous, the Wines superb, and the whole arrangements of the entertainment did the utmost credit to the Lord Kirkhill, who, at the request of the President and in respect of being able to speak the Queen's English (he having been born at Highgate, and duly sworn at the House of the Horns according to use and wont in that celebrated village), kindly superintended the same.

The same happy and joyous feelings which have universally pervaded the Club in its Native

Country shone forth with refulgent lustre over this Memorable and never-to-be-forgotten occasion, and the White Bait superadded to the usual provocatives of enjoyment caused the whole Club to Continue their Sittings till they—as the Immortal William Shakespeare says—“heard the chimes at midnight.”

The Secretary produced Letters Patent from My Lord Willowbank in Scotland, countersigned by Her Majesty's Advocate and duly endorsed, Ordaining My Lord Midstrath and the other remanent Lords of Justiciary then assembled to put upon his trial Mr. Chaplain Shand in respect that a person bearing the name of Shand had been cited to appear before the Lords of Justiciary of Aberdeen for the Abstraction and Secretion of Six White Chamber Vases.

And the Libel having been laid upon the table and a Jury empanelled, the Chaplain, without being requested to plead, was convicted in terms of Law, and ordained to have been and to be instantly conveyed on board the convict ship “Dreadnought” lying in the River Thames, opposite to the Coast, to be there detained and immured during the whole period of his natural life, and to sing the Society's Anthem for the benefit of his fellow prisoners morning and evening during the foresaid period without revocation ; against which sentence the Chaplain protested and appealed to My Lord Willowbank, at the next Annual General Court to be held in Scotland. The Company returned to



the City of London in Two *Omnibi*, the said Thomas Newman Farquhar performing, for the Edification of all concerned, the Arduous Duty of Cad.

On Monday, 9th March, 1840, the Club patronized the Benefit given to the Misses Hyland at the Aberdeen Theatre. The Aberdeen Herald reported the event thus, "The Misses Hyland took their benefit on Monday evening, under the patronage of the President and members of the Mary Culter Club; it was one of the fullest houses seen in Aberdeen for a long time. That portion of the public who were not present may form some idea of the 'bumper,' when we tell them that a part of the pit had to be railed off, for the reception of such of the audience as could not be accommodated in the boxes.

Besides this there were many who had to find standing-places behind the scenes. This could not have been very agreeable to them or the actors, but how could it be avoided when they could not lose the pleasure even at an inconvenience of witnessing the performances? In the course of the evening these delightful vocalists, in reference to the patronage bestowed on them, introduced a complimentary song to the air of 'The Braes of Balquhither,' which was received with thunders of applause. The song was as follows:—

Will ye go, lassie, go  
To the Braes o' Maryculter,  
When the Club hold their court  
At the Mill o' Maryculter,  
When the Judge and the Jury  
All seated together,  
Spend the lang Summer day  
At the Mill o' Maryculter.

We will go, we will go  
To the Braes o' Maryculter,  
We should like to be tried  
By the Judge o' Maryculter—  
As we think he would say  
'Come forward together,'  
You are sentenced to be married  
At the Kirk o' Maryculter.

Then we'il go, then we'il go  
To the Braes o' Maryculter,  
When the Court is all sitting  
At the Mill o' Maryculter.  
And we'il dance and we'il sing  
Till we catch a smart suitor,  
Then success to the Club  
At the Mill o' Maryculter."

**XII. Annual General Meeting held at Pitcaple Inn, 24th July, 1841, being the anniversary of the battle of Harlaw. Thomas Blaikie, Esq., Lord Provost of Aberdeen, "Moderator of the Club," President in the Chair.**

**We, the persons hereunto subscribing, members**

and guests of the Mary Culter Club do solemnly and sincerely declare on Soul and conscience, and in terms of the late Statute abolishing Oaths, that (the present time being late in the Evening) we are in the act of enjoying ourselves in the usual manner of the Club . . . . . We further testify that, after all who arrived in time had breakfasted in the hospitable mansion of Pitcaple Castle, we were led by Thomas Blaikie, Esq., present Lord Provost of Aberdeen, to the field where his worthy and gallant predecessor, Sir Robert Davidson, fought and fell at the head of the brave citizens of Aberdeen. Notwithstanding the party were well armed, the country as far as the eye could reach appeared quite tranquil.

“ Thus far our arms with victory are crowned,  
For, tho’ we have not fought yet have we found  
No enemy to fight withal.”

. . . Various Delinquents were tried, sentenced, and again restored into the bosom of the Club.

The Guests of the Club on this happy occasion were Hugh Lumsden, Esq. of Pitcaple, the Lord of the Manor; James Gordon, Esq. of Manar, William Leslie, Esq. of Wartle, B. C. Urquhart, Esq. of Meldrum and Byth, Alexander Jopp, Esq. Advocate, Aberdeen, John Mackenzie, Esq. of Glack, Captain J, E. Dalrymple of Westhall, Alexander Forbes, Esq. of Blackford, James Mackenzie, Jr., Esq., Glack House, William Lumsden, Esq. of

Balmedie, and G. Urquhart, Yr., Esq., Meldrum and Byth.

1. N.B. Previous to Dining the Chaplain asked a Blessing, and at the regulation hour he sang the Society's Anthem.
2. N.B. The Chaplain upon this occasion sang delightfully, but his articulation was rather thick.

XV. Annual General Meeting held on 6th July, 1844, at the Old Original Chambers at the Mill Inn of Maryculter. . . . .

At six o'clock exactly the members sat down to a neat and substantial dinner provided by Mrs. Watson the hostess in her usual mellifluous style.

The dinner and wines were of most excellent quality and called for no particular Condemnatory Remarks, except that the soda water was unusually brisk, owing perhaps to the warmth of the Season and Room.

The ornamental style in which the Club's Chambers have been in some measure re-edified called forth the approbation of the President to such a degree that it was surmised he himself must have had a hand in the pie.

The meeting found that they had so much business on hand that they adjourned the greater part of it, including the eating and drinking, till next Meeting . . . . .

XVI. Anniversary held at Charleston of Aboyne  
on 12th July, 1845.

Which day the company arrived at the appointed place jointly and severally in respective portions. Those who arrived too soon spent their spare time as they pleased without any restriction or interference on the part of the others.

At six o'clock sharp, being the hour previously fixed, all hopes were given up of any more arrivals, and a very excellent dinner smoked on the board for a short time, and then gradually disappeared under the gallant and persevering attacks of the party.

In consideration of the qualities of this said dinner, We, the Subscribers, do confidently recommend Mr. Birse, the Landlord of the Inn, to the patronage of a deserving and hungry public.

We are bound further to mention with approbation the Piper of the village, Dougal Glass, who, being a strong winded person, did manfully by himself sustain the full chorus of the Orchestra.

“ He play'd so sweet and so complete  
That out cam’

various little boys and girls supposed to be the offspring of the Villagers, as also the Chief Officer of the Burgh, viz.:—the Postmaster came to his own door and listened in rapture to the inspired musician. At the request of the Club Mr. Robert Moir, one of its members, has enriched its library

with portraits of these two distinguished individuals . . . .

XVII. Anniversary held on the 25th July, 1846,  
at The Cove—not of Cork—but in the Parish  
of Nigg.

The Company in the first place visited, inspected,  
and approved of the Works of the Aberdeen Rail-  
way in this quarter, in so far as completed, and  
recommended a steady progress therein.

They then looked out upon the sea and seed a  
Steamer coming from the Southward, which, after  
much consideration, was supposed to be the  
“Bonnie Dundee” laden with passengers and goods  
from Leith to Aberdeen.

They then dined &c., in the course of which a  
vote of thanks was given in solemn silence to the  
Purveyors for their attention to the duties of their  
important office.

It was recommended to the Reverend the  
Chaplain to provide himself against next meeting  
with a new Grace Before Meat, his present one,  
from frequent repetition, being already sufficiently  
impressed upon the memory of his hearers.

XVIII. Anniversary held on 17th July, 1847, at  
Pitcaple Inn.

The day being propitious the Club, as previously  
determined, fixed upon their dinner here this day

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and did eat the same *cum mullo gusto*, having by dint of Driving, Walking, Fishing, Daundering, and other means procured for each individual a good and sufficient appetite, which, however, they soon spoiled . . . .

His Reverence the Chaplain reported that in terms of the recommendation made this time twelve months, he had applied himself to the composition of a New Grace, but had not yet had time to get it by heart, Whereupon he was remitted to his studies . . . .

#### XXI. Anniversary held on 27th July, 1850, in the Fair City of Perth.

In the forenoon a lot of the Members and others visited and inspected the Palace of Scone and Kinfauns Castle. The Noble Owners of these places being both absent on unavoidable business, the Deputation expressed to their Servants their entire approbation of the Houses and Grounds, And came back to Perth.

The Dinner was held in the Royal George Inn or Hostelry—kept by Luckie Davidson, whom the Members take leave to recommend to the notice of a discerning public.

The Members took care of themselves and paid every suitable attention to their guests.

In the course of the evening the Club, in the due exercise of their patronage, Presented and

Inducted Patrick Stuart Fraser, a Town Councillor of Edinburgh and one of the Guests, to the Church and Parish of Dron, Leaving it to himself to ascertain if the cure be vacant, and if not to take the proper steps for making a vacancy . . . .

In the course of the evening it was resolved that such of the party as chose should visit the Hill of Kinnoul on the ensuing day, and such others as chose should go and dine at Dunkeld—it being understood that the latter party should be entitled to take with them the Club's unconsumed Wine, upon Inventory and payment.

Any other Body was allowed to do anything he chose.

Perth is a City situated on the River Tay, in which salmon is occasionally to be found. It is the Capital of Perthshire, and is supposed to have been for a short time the Capital of Scotland. But after an anxious enquiry it was found that the Court is not there at present.

The Roads from Aberdeen to Perth were found in pretty good order, being entirely Railway.

It does not appear to the Club that any further particulars need be here engrossed, the whole proceedings having passed over in the usual harmonious and convivial manner.

God Save the Queen.

XXIV. Anniversary held at Melvin's Hotel, Stonehaven, upon Saturday, 9th July, 1853.

. . . . The Club desire to record their



approbation of the Aberdeen Railway Company's arrangement for taking them into Aberdeen in the evening before breaking the Sabbath by means of a Luggage Train, which arrived at the Station decidedly before 12 o'clock, p.m. . . .

XXV. Annual Festival held 8th July, 1854, at the "Forbes Arms," Bridge of Alford.

. . . . At an early hour the Mace-bearer planted the Standard of the Club on the Summit of the Banqueting Hall, over which it floated proudly, fanned by the genial breeze of a lovely summer day, and enhancing the beauty of the scenery by its resplendent colours; while the inhabitants of the surrounding country, thus made aware of the presence of such distinguished visitors, felt proud and happy at the honour conferred upon them and the district. Many of the Members and Guests having arrived the previous evening amused themselves with fishing in the meandering Don, flowing in crystal loveliness beneath the turreted Walls of Castle Forbes. The weather was propitious—the river in fine condition—the fish in a humour to be caught—and calm serenity and enjoyment filled the bosoms of the Sportsmen.

The Banquet was served with the customary splendour, wit and wine vied for the mastery in sparkling vivacity, and eloquence lent its aid to the "feast of reason and the flow of soul," nor was the songster mute, the sweet words of the Ballad,

wedded to music as sweet, varied the enjoyment of the feast, and the Spirit, rapt and enchanted by the overwhelming sense of enjoyment, was for the time unconscious of grosser external influences . . .

XXVI. Annual Festival held at Pitcaple, 7th July, 1855.

The Circling Seasons again brought radiant summer, and the Mary Culter Club held high revelry within the Spacious and Antique Hall of the Hostelry at Pitcaple. Glorious was the weather, numerous the attendance of the members, many and distinguished the Guests, all of whom, on the swift wings of the Rail, beguiled the time in lofty converse on the progress of the war, and the gallant deeds now being enacted in the Crimea.

The Towers of Pitcaple Castle rose above the landscape in austere grandeur. Benachie

“That lofty cliff, which lifts its awful form,

Swells from the vale and mid-way leaves the storm.”

had put on his most smiling aspect, and all nature was attuned in sweet harmony with the auspicious occasion. In due time the Macer of the Club, in his gorgeous Robes, and bearing his Wand of Office, ushered the Company to the Banquet which was speedily done that justice to, to which its high merits so well entitled it. Copious libations of generous wine heightened the hilarity and added lustre to the wit, and although in various matters opinions were hazarded which met with no con-

currence, and arguments advanced which proved nothing, the reign of Good-fellowship and enjoyment was unruffled by the slightest discordant or jarring influence, and after a delightful evening, a Special Train conveyed those to the town who were thither bound.

*Sic Transit Gloria Mundi.*

XXVIII. Annual Festival held 24th July, 1857.

The Club assembled at the Kintore Arms, Inverurie, and there regaled themselves with all that was good. In the midst of the feast, a thunderstorm broke over the place, and it was thought that a water spout must have burst. At anyrate for a time there was as much spouting without as within the house. The storm drove some passers bye to take refuge within the entrance of the Hotel—two of whom were heard thus to converse,—“In Inverurie’s ancient town high revelry is held, say Stranger who the guests and whence they come?” “Lord, Sir, they be the Chaps as calls themselves the Mary Culter Club, a queerish lot, who wander here and there, and though they have no funds as ever I have heard, they live upon the best and laugh at care; their custom is to dine but once a year, and it is thought, judging from what they eat and drink, that, like the Camel, they a store can lay in to last till next they meet; when thus replete they to the Town return, and each goes to his own house, who does not go to someone else’s . . . .”

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XXIX. Annual Festival held within the Hostelry  
at the Cove, on 9th August, 1858.

On  
the which occasion  
The Club daundered,  
The Club dined,  
The Club was happy,  
The Club got merry,  
and after that  
The Club got home.

---

It only remains to be added that the 30th and  
last meeting of the Club was held under the  
presidency of Colonel Jopp at the Station Hotel,  
Alford, on 9th August, 1859.

## POPULATION STATISTICS.

## PARISH OF DURRIS.

Year	1755	-	-	-	-	889	Persons.
"	1769	-	-	-	-	777	"
"	1774	-	-	-	-	750	"
"	1791	-	-	-	-	651	"
"	1801	-	-	-	-	605	"
"	1811	-	-	-	-	724	"
"	1821	-	-	-	-	945	"
"	1831	-	-	-	-	1035	"
"	1841	-	-	-	-	1109	"
"	1851	-	-	-	-	962	"
"	1861	-	-	-	-	1109	"
"	1871	-	-	-	-	1021	"
"	1881	-	-	-	-	1014	"
"	1891	-	-	-	-	918	"

## PARISH OF DRUMOAK.

Year 1755	-	-	-	-	760	Persons.
„ 1780	-	-	-	-	663	„
„ 1790	-	-	-	-	708	„
„ 1801	-	-	-	-	648	„
„ 1811	-	-	-	-	630	„
„ 1821	-	-	-	-	756	„
„ 1831	-	-	-	-	804	„
„ 1841	-	-	-	-	811	„
„ 1851	-	-	-	-	948	„
„ 1861	-	-	-	-	996	„
„ 1871	-	-	-	-	1032	„
„ 1881	-	-	-	-	930	„
„ 1891	-	-	-	-	869	„

## PARISH OF PETERCULTER.

Year	1755	-	-	-	-	755	Persons.
„	1776	-	-	-	-	1040	„
„	1793	-	-	-	-	1002	„
„	1801	-	-	-	-	871	„
„	1811	-	-	-	-	1010	„
„	1821	-	-	-	-	1096	„
„	1831	-	-	-	-	1223	„
„	1841	-	-	-	-	1258	„
„	1851	-	-	-	-	1351	„
„	1861	-	-	-	-	1410	„
„	1871	-	-	-	-	1668	„
„	1881	-	-	-	-	1908	„
„	1891	-	-	-	-	2052	„

## PARISH OF MARYCULTER.

Year	1755	-	-	-	-	746	Persons.
"	1773	-	-	-	-	766	"
"	1783	-	-	-	-	711	"
"	1792	-	-	-	-	719	"
"	1801	-	-	-	-	710	"
"	1811	-	-	-	-	700	"
"	1821	-	-	-	-	860	"
"	1831	-	-	-	-	960	"
"	1841	-	-	-	-	924	"
"	1851	-	-	-	-	1055	"
"	1861	-	-	-	-	1055	"
"	1871	-	-	-	-	1110	"
"	1881	-	-	-	-	1072	"
"	1891	-	-	-	-	1024	"



## INDEX OF NAMES.

- ABERCROMBY** (Abercrombie), Jane, w. of Admiral Duff, 122.  
 — Mary Grace, w. of Capt. W. Cosmo Gordon, 178.  
 — Sir Robert, Bart. of Forglen, &c., 178.  
 — Baillie Robert, Aberdeen, 208.  
 — William, minister, Maryculter, 208, 209.  
**Aberdeen**, Earl of, 54.  
 — George, 1st Earl of, 121.  
 — Presbytery, 25, 57, 210.  
 — Synod, 57.  
**Agricola**, 37.  
**Aird**, James, minister, Peterculter, 144.  
**Albany**, Regent of Scotland, 45.  
**Alexander II.**, 115.  
 — III., 1.  
**Allan**, John, minister, Peterculter, 144.  
**Anderson**, David, of Finzead, 86.  
 — Janet, w. of Rev. John Gregory, 86.  
**Angus**, Archibald, Earl of, 117.  
**Arbroath**, Abbot of, 6, 67.  
**Arbuthnot & McCombie**, Culter Paper Mills, 130.  
**Arthur**, Euphemia, Maryculter, 165.  
  
**BALLENDEN**, Andrew, minister, 86.  
**Baird**, Henry Robert, of Durris, 16.  
 — William, of Elie, 16.  
**Bannerman**, Sir Alex., of Kirkhill, 201.  
 — Lady Mary, of Heathcot, 201.  
**Barclay**, Thomas, minister, Peterculter, 143, 144.  
**Beaton**, — of Balfour, 189.  
 — Cardinal, 190, 194.  
**Binning**, Thomas, Lord, 163.  
**Binny**, Alex., St. Andrews, 15.  
 — Maria, w. of A. W. Mactier of Durris, 15.  
**Birnie**, Janet, w. of Rev. John Irvine, 139.  
 — Robert, minister, Lanark, 139.  
**Bisset** (Beyseth), Walter, Maryculter, 152.  
**Black**, Patrick, minister, Peterculter, 142.  
**Blaikie**, Christian, w. of Rev. Adam Corbet, 89.  
 — Sir Thomas, Aberdeen, 89.  
**Boece**, Hector, 83.  
**Boswell**, Claude, Lord Balmuto, 182.  
 — John Irvine, of Kingcausie, 182, 183.

- Bower, John, minister, Maryculter, 210.  
— John, teacher, Aberdeen, 210.  
Bowis, Johnne, 52.  
Brand, James, of Auchlunies, 199.  
Breachin, Bishop of, 9.  
Bretagne, Anne of, 189.  
Buchan, Earl of, 2, 51, 116.  
Burnard, Alex. de, of Crathes, 43, 66.  
— Robert de, 65.  
Burnett Family, 43, 65, 66, 69.  
— Alexander, of Crathes, 67.  
— Alexander, of Crathes, 67.  
— Sir Alexander, of Crathes, 68.  
— Alexander, of Countesswells, 127.  
— Dr. Duncan, 69.  
— Elizabeth, w. of Rev. Alex. Shank, 87.  
— Bishop Gilbert, 69.  
— Professor Gilbert, 69.  
— James, of Countesswells, 128.  
— James, of Craigmyle, 67.  
— Sir James H., of Crathes, 37, 68.  
— John, 67.  
— John, 67.  
— John, of Countesswells, 129.  
— John, of Leys, 67.  
— Majory, w. of James Sandilands, 127.  
— Robert, of Crathes, 66.  
— Robert, of Crathes, 67.  
— Robert, Lord Crimond, 67.  
— Sir Robert, Bart., 68.  
— Sir Robert, Bart., 68.  
— Sir Robert, Bart., 68.  
— Robert, of Crimond, 69.  
— Sir Thomas, of Leys, 67.  
— Sir Thomas, of Leys, 68.  
— Sir Thomas, of Leys, M.P., 68.  
— Dr. Thomas, 69.  
— Sir Thomas, 69.  
— Thomas, of Park, 74.  
Burnetts, of Monboddoo, 67.  
Burns, Robert, "Poet," 122.  
  
CADZOW Family, 7.  
Carey, Mary, w. of Sir Alex. Fraser, 13.  
Carrick, Bruce, Earl of, 44.  
Chalmers, Alex., of Murtle, 185.  
— Majory, w. of Gilbert Menzies, 18.  
Charles I., 54, 67, 68.  
— II., 12, 14, 127.

- Christie, James, of Durie, 183.  
 — Margaret, w. of John Irvine Boswell, 183.  
 Clement V., 155, 156.  
 Club, Gilbert, burgess, Aberdeen, 207.  
 Collie, — farmer, Peterculter, 39, 40.  
 — Gilbert, elder, Durris, 27.  
 — John, Barresgate, Drum, 38.  
 Collison (Collisoun, Collinson) Family, 162, 196.  
 — Baillie, 185.  
 — Charles, of Auchlunies, 199.  
 — David, burgess, Aberdeen, 196.  
 — Gilbert, of Auchlunies, 197.  
 — Issobell, 198.  
 — Jean, w. of Henry Irvine of Kingcausie, 180.  
 — John, burgess, Aberdeen, 196.  
 — John, 1st of Auchlunies, 196.  
 — John, 2nd of Auchlunies, 196, 197.  
 — John, 4th of Auchlunies, 188, 197, 198.  
 — Thomas, 199.  
 Congal, St. 25.  
 Copland, Robert, minister, Durris, 19, 32.  
 Corbet, Adam, minister, Drumoak, 88, 89.  
 — William, of Bieldside, 88, 129.  
 Crawford, Margaret, w. of Provost Alex. Reid, 186.  
 Cruickshank, Wm., Newhall, Auchlunies, 188.  
 Crychtoun, William, vicar, Durris, 29.  
 Culter Mills Paper Company (Limited), 130, 131.  
 Cumberland, Albinia E., w. of Alex. Gordon of Auchlunies, 200.  
 Cumin (Cuming, Cumyn) Family, 1, 2, 116.  
 — Alexander, 116.  
 — Alexander, of Culter, 117.  
 — Sir Alexander, of Culter, 118.  
 — Sir Alexander, of Culter, Bart., 119.  
 — Sir Alexander, of Culter, 131.  
 — Alexander, advocate, 119.  
 — Archibald, Fiar of Culter, 117.  
 — James, of Culter, 117.  
 — Jardine, of Inverallochy, 116.  
 — Philip, 116.  
 — Sir William, of Culter, 116.  
 — William, of Inverallochy, 117.  
 Curle, Elizabeth, 191, 192, 193.  
 — Gilbert, 192.  
 — Hippolytus, superior, Scot's College, Douai, 193.  
 — John, 193.  
 DALGARNOCK, John de, 4.  
 David I., 65.  
 — II., 4, 5, 73.

- Davidson, James, 30, 31.  
Dempster, John, of Auchterless, 185.  
Dochty, Elizabeth, w. of Sir Alex. Fraser, 13.  
Doiglas, Alex., Lochtoun, Durris, 27.  
Donald, Lord of the Isles, 8, 45.  
Donaldson, Sir Wm., vicar, Drumoak, 82.  
Douglas (Douglass), Ann of Tilwhilly, 23.  
— Earl of, 8.  
— Eleanor, w. of Sir William Fraser of Durris, 8.  
— James, Second Earl, 7.  
— James, Earl, 116.  
— Lady Marion, w. of Al. Irvine of Drum, 51.  
— John, of Tilwhilly, 23.  
— Margaret, w. of Sir Thomas Burnett, Bart. of Leys, 68.  
— Sir Robert, of Glenbervie, 68.  
— Sir William, 3.  
Duff Family, 137.  
— Helen, w. of Admiral Duff, 122.  
— Helen, 136.  
— Margaret, w. of Patrick Duff of Culter, 121, 122, 136.  
— Patrick, of Culter, 73, 120, 121, 129, 131.  
— Patrick, of Craigston, 121.  
— Admiral Robert, of Fetteresso, &c., 121, 122.  
— Robert William, of Fetteresso and Culter, 123, 210.  
— Robert William, of Fetteresso and Culter, 123.  
— Robert William, of Fetteresso and Culter, M.P., 123.  
— William, minister, Peterculter, 142.  
— William, of Braco, 121.  
Duguid, Peter, of Auchlunies, 201.  
— Peter, of Auchlunies, 201.  
Duir, James, minister, Durris, 32.  
Dunbar, Archibald, elder, Durris, 27.  
Dunbreck, Philip de, 5.  
Duncan, George, minister, Maryculter, 210.  
Duncanson, — 162.  
Durris Kirk Session, 13, 24, 32, 33.  
Durward, Alan, 115.  
  
EDWARD I., 1, 2, 43, 116.  
— II., 156.  
— Prince Charles, 195.  
— Charles, blacksmith, Peterculter, 39, 42.  
Erroll, Earl of, 9.  
Estates, Committee of, 12, 56.  
Ewyn, Alex., Dean of Guild, Aberdeen, 198.  
  
FARQUHARSON, of Invery, 57.  
— John, minister, 193.  
Fichet, Agnes, w. of — Collison, 196.

- Fichet, Mathew, alderman, Aberdeen, 196.  
 Fife, James, Earl of, 123.  
 Fleming, John, grand master, Maryculter, 161.  
 Forbes, Sir Alex., of Tolquhon, 60.  
   — Alexander, silversmith, Aberdeen, 206.  
   — & Coy., India, 74.  
   — Andro, glasswright, Aberdeen, 52.  
   — Arthur, minister, Drumoak, 83.  
   — Duncan, stabler, Aberdeen, 52.  
   — George, Maryculter, 165.  
   — Hugh, of Schivas, 62.  
   — Jane, w. of Alex. Irvine of Drum, 62.  
   — Jean, w. of John Sandilands of Countesswells, 128.  
   — John, of Leslie, 182.  
   — Johnne, of Corsindae, 52.  
   — Johnne, in Mylnebowy, 52.  
   — Low & Co., Aberdeen, 74.  
   — Margaret, w. of Thos. Gordon of Kennerty, 126.  
   — Margaret, Peterculter, 133.  
   — Marjory, w. of Alexander Irvine of Drum, 60.  
   — Master of, 117.  
   — Meriorie, 198.  
   — Bishop Patrick, 118.  
   — Patrick, Mylnebowy, 52.  
   — Thomas, of Waterton, 128.  
   — Thomas, yr., of Sheddocksleys, 181.  
   — William, of Banchory, 182.  
   — William, schoolmaster, Peterculter, 132—135.  
   — William, Lord, 60.  
 Fordoun Presbytery, 25, 88, 210.  
 Fordyce, Provost George, Aberdeen, 31.  
   — Isabella, w. of Rev. Robert Melvill, 31.  
 Fortescue, Archer Irvine, of Kingcausie, 184, 201.  
 Fraser (Fresale, Fraiser,) Family, of Durris, 26, 29.  
   — Sir Alex. Chamberlain, 2, 3.  
   — Sir Alex., of Philorth, 49.  
   — Alexander, Philorth, 49.  
   — Alexander, of Durris, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.  
   — Alexander, S. of Do., 7, 8, 9.  
   — Alexander, of Durris, 9.  
   — Alexander, of Durris, 10.  
   — Sir Alexander, Eighth of Philorth, 10, 11.  
   — Sir Alexander, of Durris, 12.  
   — Andrew, of Muchal, 11.  
   — Anne, w. of Sir Alex. Fraser of Durris, 13.  
   — Charles, 13.  
   — George, minister, Durris, 29, 83.  
   — James, Durris, 27.  
   — James, minister, Drumoak, 38, 88, 89.

- Fraser, James, of Heathcot, 202.  
— John, of Durris, 4, 6.  
— Lord, 11, 12, 13, 118.  
— Sir Peter, of Durris, 13.  
— Robert, Durris, 27.  
— Thomas, of Durris, 27.  
— Thomas, Petcowteis, 23, 27.  
— Thomas, schoolmaster, Durris, 27, 28.  
— Sir William, of Durris, 2, 3, 4, 5.  
— Sir William, of Philorth, &c., 8, 9.  
— William, of Durris, 9, 10.  
— William, of Ouchterdurris, 10.  
Fullerton, John, minister, Drumoak, 88.  
— Katherine, w. of John Irvine of Drum, 61.  
— Robert, of Dudwick, 61.
- GALLOWAY, Alexander, prebendary, Durris, 29.  
— John, prebendary, Drumoak, 82.
- Gammell, James, of Countesswells, 129.  
— Rev. James Stewart, Countesswells, 129.
- Garden (Gardin, Gardyn), Alex., of Banchory, 207.  
— Alexander, minister, Forgue, 208.  
— George, of Gardin, 126.  
— James, minister, Maryculter, 208.
- Garioch, Alexander, minister, Peterculter, 139.  
— Andrew, minister, Peterculter, 139.  
— John, of Heathcot, 201.  
— Margaret, Heathcot, 202.
- Gaw, John, Auchlunies, 188.
- George II., 120.  
— III., 122, 178.  
— Chevalier St., 194.  
— Second Marquis of Huntly, 56.
- Gerard, Alex., reader, Drumoak, 83.
- Giels, Janet, w. of James Gammell, 129.
- Gillespie, Malcolm, excise officer, 42, 114, 115.
- Glennie, George, minister, Aberdeen, 209.  
— John, minister, Maryculter, 88, 209.  
— John, minister, Dunnottar, 209.
- Godfrey of St. Omer, 153.
- Gordon Family, 11, 14.  
— Alexander, Durris, 33.  
— Alexander, of Auchlunies, 200, 201.  
— Alexander, of Lismore, 67.  
— A. H., of Maryculter and Fyvie, 178, 206.  
— Bertie E. M., 200.  
— Charles, priest, Aberdeen, 193.  
— Duke of, 14, 17.  
— Lady Henrietta, 13.

## S

- Gordon, James, of Banchory, 199, 201.  
 — John, of Kennerty, 126.  
 — Katherine, w. of Alex. Burnett of Leys, 67.  
 — Lady Mary, w. of Alex. Irvine of Drum, 56.  
 — Sir Maurice Duff, of Fyvie and Maryculter, 178.  
 — R. L. H., 200.  
 — Thomas, of Kennerty, 125, 126.  
 — Thomas, of Premnay and Heathcot, 201.  
 — Hon. Wm., of Ellon, 177, 200.  
 — William, of Fyvie and Maryculter, 178.  
 — Capt. William Cosmo, Maryculter, 178.
- Graham, John, minister, Drumoak, 83.  
 — Thomas, master of the Mint, 15.
- Gray, Meriorie, 198.
- Gregory, James, professor, 86.  
 — James, saddler, Aberdeen, 86.  
 — John, minister, Drumoak, 86.
- Guthrie, Robert, Drumoak, 38.
- HAMILTON, —, of Bothwellhaugh, 117.  
 — Lady Elizabeth de, 7, 8, 9.  
 — James, 62.  
 — John, archbishop, St. Andrews, 190.  
 — Margaret, w. of A. F. Irvine of Drum, 62.
- Harper, — schoolmaster, Durris, 31.
- Harvey, Andrew, of Blairs, 186, 187, 188.
- Hay, Jean, w. of John Collison of Auchlunies, 197.  
 — Thomas, of Kennerty, 125.  
 — Thomas, rector, Drumoak, 83.  
 — William De, Lord of Erroll, 9.
- Hogg (Hog, Hoig), Andrew, 22.  
 — Andrew, in Boig, 23.  
 — Archibald, Balbrydie, 23.  
 — Archibald, minister, Durris, 29.  
 — George, of Shannaburn, 23, 24.  
 — James, Blairydrine, 23.  
 — James, minister, Skene, 23.  
 — James, teacher, Banchory-Devenick, 23.  
 — James, Knappach, 23.  
 — John, 22.  
 — Miniane or Monan, 22.  
 — Miniane or Monan, Jr., 23.  
 — Thomas, elder, Durris, 27.  
 — William, Knappach, 23.  
 — William, Woodend, 23.
- Hoggs of Blairydrine, 10, 22, 23, 24, 29.
- Honorius II., 153.
- Huntly, Earl of, 48.  
 — George Second Marquis of, 56.

Hutcheon, James, West India merchant, 74, 75.

INGLES, — Maryculter, 162.

Innes, Cosmo, 14, 163.

— John, of Leuchars, 14.

Irvine (Irwine, Irving, Irwing), Family, 36, 44, 108, 162.

— Miss, of Drum, 82.

— Alexander, of Beltie, 29.

— Alexander, of Crimond, 61.

— Alexander, Culter Mills, 130.

— Alexander, & Coy., Culter Mills, 130.

— Sir Alexander, of Drum, 44, 45, 46, 47.

— Sir Alexander, of Drum, 47, 48.

— Alexander, of Drum, 48, 49, 50.

— Alexander, of Drum, 50, 51.

— Alexander, of Drum, 51, 53.

— Sir Alexander, of Drum, 54, 55, 56, 57.

— Sir Alexander, of Drum, 56, 57, 58, 59.

— Alexander, of Drum, 59.

— Alexander, of Drum, 62.

— Alexander, of Forglen, 10.

— Alexander, of Kingcausie, 181.

— Alexander, of Murtle, 59, 60.

— Alexander Forbes, of Drum, 62.

— Alexander Forbes, of Drum, 62.

— Ann, w. of Lord Balmuto, 182.

— Henrietta, w. of Alex. Leslie of Pitcaple, 59.

— Henry, of Kingcausie, 180.

— James, minister, Durris, 29.

— James, of Kingcausie, 182.

— Jean, w. of Alex. Irvine of Murtle, 59.

— John, of Artamford, 61.

— John, of Drum, 61.

— John, of Kingcausie, 180, 181, 187.

— John, minister, Peterculter, 139.

— Margaret, w. of Gilbert Menzies of Pitfodels, 59.

— Mary, w. of Count Leslie, 59.

— Robert, of Moncoffer, 52.

— Robert, 11.

— Robert, of Drum, 46, 47.

— Robert, 56.

— William de, of Bonshaw, 43.

— William, of Drum, 43, 66, 73.

— William, of Drum, 81.

Irvines of Artamford, 59.

— of Culter, 59.

— of Murtle, 59.

— of Saphock, 61, 139.



JAFFRAY, Alexander, 181.

James I., 7, 9, 47, 202.

— II., 195.

— III., 49, 125, 194.

— V., 50, 161, 185.

— VI., 51, 125.

Jerusalem, Knights of St. John of, 19, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161.

John of Bavaria, 45.

Johnston (Johnsone), George, prebendary, Drumoak, 82.

— Thomas, of Caskieben, 181.

KEITH, Bishop, 162.

— Alexander, 135.

— Elizabeth, w. of Alex. Irvine of Drum, 44, 45.

— Lady Elizabeth, 51.

— George Skene, minister, Keith-hall, 135.

— Sir Gilbert, 22.

— Sir Robert, marischal of Scotland, 44, 45.

— Sir William, 22.

Keiths of Dunnottar, 36, 44, 45.

— of Inverugie and Cowie, 22.

Kelso, Abbot of, 203.

Kennedy, Jane, 191.

— John, minister, Peterculter, 136, 141, 142.

— Margaret, w. of David Stephen, Drumoak, 37.

Kinloch, Alexander John, of Park and Altries, 74, 75, 180, 206.

— James, 74, 179, 180.

— Mrs., of Park and Altries, 206.

Kinninmond, Alex., bishop, Aberdeen, 76.

Knights Hospitallers, 157-165.

— Templars, 19, 152-157.

Kyd, John, vicar, Durris, 29.

Kyle, Right Rev. Bishop, 192.

Kynloch, Alex. de, prebendary, Drumoak, 82.

LEASK, Alexander, minister, Maryculter, 207, 208.

Leith (Leyth), John, of Montgarrie, 126.

Leslie, Alexander, minister, Durris, 31, 32.

— Alexander, of Pitcaple, 59.

— Alexander, of Wardis, 196.

— Bessie, w. of John Collison, of Auchlunies, 197.

— Elizabeth, w. of John Collison of Auchlunies, 196.

— Forbes, of Rothienorman, 62.

— Patrick, Count, of Balquhain, 59.

— Sir Walter de, 6.

— William, of Wardis, 197.

Liell, Andrew, treasurer, Aberdeen Cathedral, 125.

Lindsay (Lyndsay, Lyndesay), Alexander, 164, 177.

— Alexander, rector, Belhelvie, 125.

- Lindsay, David, minister, Drumoak, 87.  
— David, Jr., minister, Drumoak, 87.  
— Janet, w. of John Gordon, 126.  
— Jean, w. of Monan Hogg, Jr., 23.  
— Sir Walter, 19, 176, 184.  
— Walter, of Bewfort, 48.  
Livingston (Livingstone), Alexander, of Countesswells, 128.  
— Dr., 16.  
Lockhart, Robert, vicar, Drumoak, 83.  
Low, Mrs., 74.  
Lumsden, Elizabeth, w. of John Burnett of Leys, 67.  
— John, minister, Maryculter, 208.  
  
MACDONALD & LESLIE, Aberdeen Granite Works, 202.  
Mackie, Charles, minister, Drumoak, 89.  
Maclean, Hector, Chief of Clan Maclean, 46.  
MacNicol, — chaplain, Maryculter, 162.  
Mactier, Alexander, of Durris, 15.  
— Anthony, of Durris, 14, 15.  
Makdowell, Sir Edward, chaplain, 49.  
Maky, John, Durris, 19.  
— William, Durris, 19.  
Mar, Countess of, 8.  
— Earl of, 45.  
Marischal, Earl, 22, 55.  
Mark, George, minister, Peterculter, 142.  
Mary Queen of Scots, 117, 160, 162, 190-195.  
— Saint, 152, 203.  
Maryculter Club, 212-247.  
— Kirk Session, 211, 212.  
Mayot or Mazota, Saint, 75, 76.  
McPherson, Abbe, 194.  
Meldrum, William, vicar, Peterculter, 138.  
Melvill (Melville), Charles N. B., minister, Maryculter, 210.  
— Francis, minister, Arbuthnott, 30.  
— Francis, 31.  
— John, 31.  
— Robert, minister, Durris, 30, 31.  
Menzies, of Durn 188.  
— of Pitfodels, 177, 178.  
— David, of Blairs, 188.  
— David, of Kirktown of Banchory-Devenick, 207.  
— Gilbert, of Pitfodels, 59.  
— Gilbert, of Findon, 162, 184, 185, 186,  
— Sir Gilbert, 160.  
— Jean, w. of Thomas Collison of Auchlunies, 199.  
— John, of Pitfodels, 177, 179, 188, 189.  
— Marjory, w. of Rev. Andrew Milne, Maryculter, 207.  
— Nannys, w. of Alexander Irvine of Drum, 49.

- Menzies, Thomas, of Pitfodels, 185, 186, 204.  
 Middleton, John, Earl of, 194.  
 Milne, Andrew, minister, Maryculter, 207.  
   — Cruden & Coy., Aberdeen, 128.  
   — James, Durris, 33.  
   — John, vicar, Maryculter, 207.  
 Mitchell, Adam, of Heathcot, 202.  
   — Arthur, minister, Skene, 209.  
   — James, farmer, Kennethmont, 202.  
   — Jean, w. of Rev. John Glennie, Maryculter, 209.  
 Moigne, John, of Park, 73.  
   — Walter, of Park, 73.  
 Moir, William, of Park, 74.  
 Molay, De, grand master, 156.  
 Moncrieff, Jean, w. of Sir Thomas Burnett, Bart., 68.  
   — Sir John, 68.  
 Montrose, Marquis of, 12, 16, 56, 57.  
 Moore, Sir John, 200.  
 Moray, Sir Andrew, of Bothwell, 2, 3.  
   — Margaret, w. of William Fraser of Durris, 2.  
 Mordaunt, Charles, Earl of Peterborough, &c., 14.  
   — Henrietta, w. of Duke of Gordon, 14.  
 Mories, Wm., schoolmaster, Peterculter, 133.  
 Morrison (Morison), —, artist, 194.  
   — George of Haddo, 122, 123.  
 Mortymer, Johnne, 52.  
 Muchal Family, 11.  
 Munro, General, 54, 55, 86, 118.  
 Myln, Alex., Caladrum, Durris, 27.  
   — Alex., Mains of Durris, 27.  
  
 NAPIER, Archibald, minister, Maryculter, 206, 209.  
 Naughtie, Alexander, elder, Durris, 27.  
  
 OGILVIE, James, of Auchiries, 62.  
   — Mary, w. of Alex. Irvine of Drum, 62.  
   — Theophilus, of Auchlunies, 200, 201.  
 Ogston, A. M., of Ardoe and Heathcot, 203.  
  
 PATERSON, Bishop, 193.  
 Paul, —, schoolmaster, Drumoak, 78.  
   — William, minister, Maryculter, 210.  
 Payens, Hugh de, 153.  
 Penny, Andrew, of Park, 75.  
   — James, 75.  
 Peter, Saint, 107, 135.  
 Peterborough, Earl of, 14, 17.  
 Philip IV., 155, 156.  
   — the Hermit, 157.

Pirie, Messrs., of Stoneywood, 130.

Pitfodels Family, 49.

Polwart, — Maryculter, 162.

RAMSAY, Adam, elder, Durris, 27.

— Sir Alex., of Balmain, 68.

*Red Beard*, Durris, 20, 21.

Reid, Dr. Alexander, Banchory-Ternan, 68.

— Provost Alexander, of Pitfodels, 185.

— Cuthbert, rector, Drumoak, 83.

— James, Maryculter, 179.

— John, minister, Durris, 25, 30.

— Marion, w. of Thomas Menzies of Pitfodels, 185, 186, 204.

— Robert, minister, Banchory-Ternan, 21.

— William, minister, Durris, 30.

Reynolds, Sir Joshua, 122.

Ripon, Earl of, 200.

Robert the Bruce, 2, 43, 66.

— II., 4, 5, 73.

— III., 7, 47.

Robertson, Alexander, elder, Durris, 27.

— Alexander, reader, Peterculter, 137.

— Alexander, reader, Maryculter, 206.

Rose, Alexander, minister, Drumoak, 88.

— Isabel, w. of Rev. Alexander Rose, 88.

Ross, Alexander, tailor, Drumoak, 38-42.

— Gilbert, 84.

— Lady Johanna, 5, 7.

— Richard, minister, Drumoak, 84, 137.

— William, Earl of, 5.

SANDILANDS, James, of Cotton, 127.

— Sir James, 162, 177.

— John, of Countesswells, 127, 128.

— John, of Countesswells, 128.

— Patrick, of Cotton, 127.

Scott, Louisa, w. of R. W. Duff, 123.

— Sir Wm., Bart. of Ancrum, 123.

Scrimzeour, Sir John, of Dudhope, 54.

— Magdalen, w. of Sir Alex. Irvine, 54.

Scroggy (Scroggie), Alexander, minister, Drumoak, 77, 85.

— John, elder, Durris, 27.

Seton, Janet, w. of John Collison, 197.

— Janet, w. of Gilbert Collison, 197.

Shank (Shanks), Alexander, minister, Drumoak, 79, 80, 87.

— Alexander, minister, Arbuthnott, 87.

— Murdoch, 87.

— William, minister, Brechin, 79, 87.

— of Castlerig, 88.

- Sim, George Innes, minister, Drumoak, 89.  
 Simpson, Archibald, Architect, 81.  
 Skene, Margaret, w. of James Hogg of Blairydrine, 23.  
   — Robert, of Raemore, 23.  
 Smith, Bartholomew, Peterculter, 129, 130.  
   — Lewis, Peterculter, 130.  
   — Richard, Peterculter, 130.  
 Smyth, Steven, S, at Drum, 51.  
*Soletre, Alanus de*, vicar, Peterculter, 137.  
 Somerset, Protector, 51.  
 Souper, Patrick, of Auchlunies, 199.  
 Spark, Robert, minister, Durris, 32.  
 Stephen, David, Easter Cairnie, 37.  
 Stirling, John, minister, Peterculter, 143.  
 Strachan Kirk Session, 13.  
   — William, minister, Durris, 32.  
 Swinton, Alexander, of Mersington, 119.  
 Syme, Alexander, drawing master, Dollar, 183.  
 Symmers, George, of Cults, 129.
- TAILZOUR, George, Philorth, 49.  
 Tennent, James, of Lynhouse, 162, 163.  
 Thomson (Thompson), Alex., minister, Peterculter, 139, 140, 141.  
   — Francis, minister, Peterculter, 139.  
   — Isabel, w. of Alex. Irvine, 61.  
   — Robert, minister, Peterculter, 143.  
   — Thomas, of Faichfield, 61.  
   — William, minister, Peterculter, 142.  
 Torphichen, Lord, 177.
- UDNY, Alexander, of Udney, 121.  
   — Ann, w. of John Sandilands, 127, 128.  
   — John, of Udney, 121.  
   — John, 128.  
   — Lady Martha, 121
- VAUS, Alexander, prebendary, Drumoak, 82.  
 Victoria, Queen, 190.
- WALLACE, William, reader, Peterculter, 138.  
   — William, minister, Peterculter, 138.  
 Watson, William, of Binghill, 108.  
   — Thomas, elder, Durris, 27.  
 Watt, Charles John, minister, Durris, 32.  
 Wauchope Family, 43, 66.  
   — Sir Adam, of Culter, 166.  
   — Allan, 115.  
   — Marjory, w. of Philip Cumin, 116.  
   — Robert, of Culter, 115.

- Wauchope, Robert de, 116.  
Wedderburn, —., Maryculter, 162.  
— Godfrey, Maryculter, 167-175.  
Wells, Hugh, rector, Durris, 28, 29.  
White, George, minister, Maryculter, 208.  
Whitehall, Anna, w. of Sir Alex. Cumin, 119.  
— Lancelot, 119.  
William the Lion, 152, 154.  
Williamson, Robert, writer, Edinburgh, 162, 163.  
Winzet, Niniane, 190.  
  
YORK, Cardinal Duke of, 195.  
Young, James, of Durris, 15, 19.  
Youngson, Alexander, minister, Durris, 29, 33, 34.  
— William, minister, Durris, 30.  
Yule, Sir John, rector, Peterculter, 137.

## INDEX OF PLACES.

- ABERDEEN** (Abirdene, Aberden) 5, 10, 13, 23, 24, 30, 37, 42, 47, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 68, 69, 71, 74, 84, 86, 89, 110, 112, 126, 127, 128, 129, 165, 178, 180, 182, 185, 186, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, 202, 206, 208, 209, 210.  
 Aberdeenshire, 54.  
 Aberdour, 6.  
 Aboyne Church, 152, 163.  
 Altrie, Pitfour, 180.  
 Altries, Maryculter, 75, 178, 179, 180, 206.  
 Ancrum, 123.  
 Andersonian University, Glasgow, 15, 16.  
 Andrews, Saint, 190.  
 Anguston, Peterculter, 125.  
 Aquhorties, Inverurie, 189.  
 Arbeadie (Arbady), 117.  
 Arbroath Convent, 66.  
 Arbuthnott, 30, 87.  
 Ardboik, 115.  
 Ardlethen, 83.  
 Ardoe (Ardach), 161, 203.  
 Argyllshire, 62.  
 Artamford, 54, 61.  
 Ashentilly (Essentully), 176, 179.  
 Auchindoir, 54.  
 Auchinshogill, 6.  
 Auchiries, 62.  
 Auchlee, Hill of, 183.  
 Auchlunies, 162, 180, 188, 195-201.  
 Auchronie, Skene, 46.  
 Auchterless, 88, 185.  
 Ayr, 208.  
  
**BAKEBARE**, Drumoak, 36.  
 Balantradoch, 163.  
 Balbrydie, Durris, 23.  
 Balcharn, Durris, 7.  
 Baldarrach (Badarach), 73.  
 Balfuthachy, 7.  
 Balgowny, Brig of, 49.  
 Balmain, 68.  
 Balmerino, 208.  
 Balmuto, Fife, 182, 183.  
 Balquhain, 59.  
 Banchory Estate, 126, 199, 201, 207.  
 Banchory-Devenick, 23, 107, 182, 207.  
 Banchory-Ternan, 21, 23, 30, 66, 68.  
 Banffshire, 54, 144.  
 Barns, 139.  
 Barresgate, Drum, 38.  
 Basle, 69.  
 Beinshall, Muir of, Peterculter, 119.  
 Belhelvie, 125.  
 Beltie Estate, 48.  
 Berwick (Berwic), 43, 48.  
 Bieldside, Peterculter, 89, 128, 129.  
 Binghill, 108.  
 Birkenbog, 178.  
 Birse, 75.  
 Black Friar Croft, Aberdeen, 52.  
 Blairs, Maryculter, 37, 162, 177, 184-195.  
 Blairydrine, Durris, 10, 22, 23, 24.  
 Bloody Stripe, Peterculter, 110.  
 Bogfon, Maryculter, 179.  
 Boig, 23.  
 Bonshaw, 43.  
 Bothwellhaugh, 117.  
 Bourtie, 201, 209.  
 Braco, 121.  
 Braemar, 112.  
 Brechin, 79, 87.  
     — Battle, 48.  
     — Kirk, 10.

- Brutherfield, Peterculter, 126,  
127, 129, 133.  
Buchan, 154, 180.  
Burnside, Maryculter, 179.
- CAIRNBULG, II.  
Cairnie, Easter, 37.  
Cairnmonearn Hill, Durris, 18.  
Cairnshea Hill, Durris, 24.  
Campvere, 67.  
Candyglerach (Canaglerach, Kil-  
henach Clerach), 66, 80.  
Cardeny, 66.  
Carron, 122.  
Caskieben, 181.  
Castlerig, 87.  
Chili, 200.  
Cockley, Maryculter, 179.  
Collangy, 50.  
Collie—see Cowie.  
Collison's Aisle, Aberdeen, 196,  
197.  
Contlaw, Nether, Peterculter,  
124.  
Contlaw Over, Peterculter, 124.  
Corse, 118.  
Corsindae, 52.  
Cotton, 127.  
Coule, 50.  
Countesswells, 108, 126-129.  
Cowie (Collie), 3, 8, 22.  
— Thanedom, 2, 4.  
Crabstane, 68, 182.  
Cragtoun, 50.  
Craigbeg, Durris, 20.  
Craiglug, Durris, 20.  
Craigmyle, 67.  
Craigston, 121.  
Crathes, 43, 141.  
— Castle, 69, 70.  
— Moss, 37.  
Crimond, 61, 62, 69.  
Cromar, 54.  
Crynoch, 179.  
Cullen, 199.  
Culter, 129, 163.  
— Burn, 110, 129.  
— Estate, 43, 62, 73, 81,  
115-124.
- Culter Fort, 124.  
— Mains, 124.  
— Paper Works, 129, 131.  
— Railway Station, 123.  
Cults, 107, 128, 129.  
Currie, 143.  
Cushnie, 67, 139.  
Cyprus, 158.
- DALMAIK Farm, Drumoak, 36.  
Dee, River, 19, 29, 35, 44, 66,  
107, 109, 124, 126, 152, 161,  
177, 178, 184, 203.  
Deeside, 61.  
Denmill, Peterculter, 124.  
Dennie, 163.  
Don, Bridge of, 49.  
— River, 181.  
Donald's Garth, Maryculter,  
179.  
Douai, 192, 193.  
Drum, 10, 82, 116, 180, 181.  
— Castle, 46, 55, 60, 63,  
64, 65, 78.  
Drum Estate, 43-65.  
— Forest, 43, 66, 73, 80.  
— Place of, 49.  
— Property, Peterculter,  
125, 126.  
Drumfrennie (Drumquhirny),  
117.  
Drumoak (Dalmaik, Dalmayok),  
106, 107, 139, 140.  
Drumoak Church, 41, 75-82,  
209.  
Drumoak Churchyard, 38, 39,  
41.  
Drumtochty, 129.  
Drum's Aisle, Aberdeen, 54, 59.  
— Stone, Auchronie, 47.  
Dudhope, 54.  
Dudwick, 61.  
Dundee, 54.  
Dunnottar, 209.  
Dupplin, Battle of, 3.  
Durham, 4.  
Durie, 183.  
Durris, 1-35.  
— Bridge, 1.



- Durris Castle, 11, 16.  
   — Castle Hill, 4, 17.  
   — Church, 25-28.  
   — Dell, 17.  
   — Forest, 1.  
   — House, 19.  
   — Manse, 31.
- EAST-SIDE, Maryculter, 179.  
 Eastertown, Maryculter, 200.  
 Echt, 83.  
 Eddiestone, Peterculter, 108.  
 Edinburgh, 56, 57, 119, 148,  
   162, 188.  
   — Castle, 3, 57.  
   — University, 14.  
 Elgin, 14.  
   — Academy, 144.  
 Elie, Fifeshire, 16.  
 Ellon Estate, 200.  
 Enzie, 32.  
 Essintuly (Essyntuly, Essentuly,  
   Essentully), 2.  
 Essintuly, Easter, 177.  
   — Wester, 4, 6.  
 Esslie, South, Durris, 20.  
 Estland (Eastland), Maryculter,  
   185.
- FAICHFIELD, 61.  
 Farnell Manse, 30.  
 Fedderate, 54.  
 Fettercairn, 61.  
   — Manse, 31.  
 Fetteresso, 122, 123, 163.  
 Findon, 162, 184.  
 Finzead, 86.  
 Ford, Water, Maryculter, 176,  
   177.  
 Fordoun, 129.  
 Foresterhill, 197.  
 Forfarshire, 54, 83.  
 Forglen, 6, 10, 50, 54, 178.  
 Forge, 208.  
 Fortrie Estate, 50.  
 Fotheringay, 190.  
 Foveran, 142.  
 France, 3, 45, 61, 155, 194.  
 Fraserburgh, 6, 56.
- Fyvie, 178, 206.
- GALLOWBURN, Drumoak, 36.  
 Gardin (Gardyn, Gairn), 126,  
   127, 129.  
 Garioch, 45.  
 Garrol, Durris, 20.  
 Gateside, Maryculter, 179.  
 Gibraltar, 121.  
 Glasgow, 15, 190, 195.  
 Glassaugh, 122, 123.  
 Glasterberry, 124.  
 Glenbervie, 68.  
 Glenfarquhar, 67.  
 Glenlivet, 89.  
 Gordon Castle, Fochabers, 14.  
 Gormack Burn, Peterculter, 110.  
 Grammar School, Aberdeen, 52,  
   53.  
 Greenock, 129.  
 Greenwich, 122.  
 Guild Brethren's Hospital,  
   Aberdeen, 54.
- HADDO, 122, 123.  
 Halidon Hill, Battle of, 3.  
 Hamanchaca, South America,  
   75.  
 Harlaw, Battle of, 8, 46.  
 Hawkhilllock, Park, 36.  
 Heathcot, Maryculter, 196, 200,  
   201-203.  
 Heathcot Hydropathic, 203.  
 Hern (Herne), 117.  
 Hillbrae, Maryculter, 179.  
 Hillside, 124.  
 Hilltoun, 108.  
   — of Kennertie, 138.  
 Hogg's School, Banchory-Deve-  
   nick, 24.  
 Holland, 205.  
 Hollmill, Peterculter, 124.
- INCH Farm, 177.  
 Inchmachan, 163.  
 Inchmarlo (Inchmerlach), 117.  
 Insch, 139.  
 Inverallochy, 116, 117,  
 Inverbervie, 3.

- Inverness, 148.  
 Invernorth, 11.  
 Inverugie, 22.  
 Inverurie, 46, 189, 201.  
 Invery, 57.  
  
 JAFFA, 154.  
 Jedburgh, 117, 148,  
 Jerusalem, 153, 154, 157, 158,  
 167.  
 Judea, 153.  
  
 Keiss Castle, 56.  
 Keith-hall, 135.  
 Keith's Moor, 36, 44.  
     — Pot, 44.  
     — Stone, 44.  
 Kelly, Arbirlot, 54.  
     — Renfrewshire, 15, 16.  
 Kelso, 66, 164.  
 Kemnay, 83.  
 Kennernie (Kynarny), 83.  
 Kennerty, Peterculter, 125, 147.  
 Kennethmont, 202.  
 Kilbartha, 163.  
 Kilmalcolm, 139.  
 Kilsyth, 57.  
 Kincardine O'Neil, 180.  
 Kincardineshire, 68, 159.  
 Kingcausie (Kingcausy), 162,  
 180-184, 196, 201, 206.  
 Kinghorn, 87, 88.  
 King's College, Aberdeen, 68,  
 83, 85, 88, 89, 123, 127, 139,  
 141, 144, 201, 209, 210.  
 Kinnuck, 54.  
 Kinnell, Manse, 30.  
 Kirkhill, Dyce, 201.  
 Kirkhill Parish, 142.  
 Kirktown, Banchory Devenick,  
 207.  
 Kirktown, Maryculter, 165.  
 Knappach, 23.  
 Kynclonyes, 7.  
 Kynedward, 116.  
  
 LANARK, 139.  
 Lasts (Lachts), Peterculter, 124.  
 Lerwick, 143.  
  
 Leuchar, Peterculter, 125.  
     — Burn, Peterculter, 110.  
 Leuchars, near Elgin, 14.  
 Leys Estate, 65-73, 127.  
 Liege, France, 45.  
 Linn, Culter, 110, 125.  
     — North, 111.  
 Lismore, 67.  
 Liston, 163.  
 Liverpool, 15.  
 Loncardy, 6.  
 London, 47, 120, 179.  
     — University, 15.  
 Lonmay, 54.  
 Lynhouse, 162.  
  
 MADRAS, 14.  
 Maiks St. Well, Drumoak,  
 75.  
 Malta, 159, 160.  
 Manchester, 15.  
 Marischal College, Aberdeen,  
 53, 69, 209.  
 Maryculter, 24, 75, 107, 152,  
 163.  
 Maryculter Church, 187, 203-  
 210.  
 Maryculter Estate, 176, 179,  
 206.  
 Maryculter House, 160, 177,  
 178.  
 Maryculter Mill, 185.  
 Memphis, 157.  
 Mersington, 119.  
 Midmar (Mydmar), 83.  
 Milltimber, 108.  
 Molquilla, 200.  
 Monboddo, 67.  
 Moncoffer, 52.  
 Montrose, 148, 181.  
 Moray, 45.  
 Montauban, 69.  
 Muchal, 11.  
 Muirskie, Maryculter, 179.  
 Murtle (Murthill), 59, 60, 107,  
 184.  
 Murtle, Barony of, 124.  
     — Mains of, 197.  
 Mylnebowy, 52.

- NEWHALL, Auchlunies, 188.  
 Newhills, 181, 208.  
 New Machar, 208.  
 Nicholas, Church of St., Aberdeen, 48, 59.  
 Nigg, 29, 207.  
 Ninian, Chantry of St., 48.  
 Norman Dykes, Peterculter, 110.  
 Norman Faughs, 110.  
   — Well, 110.  
 Northumberland, 7.  
  
 OLD ABERDEEN, 10, 130.  
   — Machar, 85.  
 Oldtown, Peterculter, 108.  
 Oruro, Bolivia, 75.  
 Otterburn, 7.  
 Ouchterdunnis, 10.  
  
 PARK, 73-75, 179, 180, 206.  
   — Bridge, 17.  
   — House, 36.  
 Parkhead, Maryculter, 179.  
 Paris, 83, 193, 195.  
 Perth, 3, 47.  
 Petbrechar (Petbrechare), 80, 81.  
 Peterculter, 39, 84, 107-151.  
   — Church, 83, 135-144, 203.  
 Peter Well, Peterculter, 177.  
 Philorth, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 49.  
 Pinkie, Battle of, 51, 177.  
 Pitcaple, 59.  
 Pitfodels, 59, 107, 177, 178, 179, 185.  
 Pitfour, 180.  
 Pitsligo, 6.  
 Plady, 6.  
 Polwarth, 32.  
 Porthill, Aberdeen, 128.  
 Premnay, 120, 201.  
  
 RANISHILL, 124.  
 Rathen, 6, 116.  
 Rathven 85.  
*Red Beard's* Well, Durris, 20.  
 Redmyres, 48.  
  
 Reid-Burnett Schools, Banchory, 68.  
 Rhodes, 158, 160, 161.  
 Robertson (Robertston), Peterculter, 124.  
 Rome, 194, 195.  
 Ross, Earldom of, 45.  
 Rothienorman, 62.  
 Rotterdam, 128.  
 Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, 13.  
  
 SAPHOCK, 61, 139.  
 Saratoga, 68.  
 Schivas, 62.  
 Scone, 67.  
 Scot's College, Douai, 192.  
 Shannaburn, 24, 196, 200.  
 Sheddocksleys, 181.  
 Skellmuir Nether, Tarves, 199.  
 Skene, 29, 46, 209.  
   — Easter, 137.  
 Soutra, 137.  
 Spain, 193.  
 Spital Croft, Durris 19.  
 St. Andrews, 15, 25.  
   — Fergus, 32.  
   — Mary's College, Blairs, 189.  
 St. Paul's Chapel, Aberdeen, 13.  
 Standing Stanes, Maryculter, 179.  
 Stobhall, Maryculter, 179.  
 Stonegavel, Peterculter, 40.  
   — Inn, 113.  
 Stoneywood, 130.  
 Strabrok, 22.  
 Strachan, 20, 47, 60, 67, 206.  
 Strathbogie, 45.  
 Strichen, 6.  
 Swanbister, Orkney, 184.  
 Swellhead, Maryculter, 209.  
  
 TALAVERA, Battle of, 183.  
 Tarves, 199.  
 Temple, 163.  
 Thankerton, 163.  
 Thunder Hole, Maryculter, 179.

Tilburies (Tilbouries, Tilboury), 160, 205.	VALLADOLID, 195.
Tilburies, Easter, 185.	WARDIS, 196, 197.
Tolquhon, 60.	Waterton, 128.
Torphichen, 19, 157, 159, 162, 163, 177, 184, 199.	Waulkmill, Peterculter, 129.
Torry, 198.	Weal Water, Maryculter, 176.
Trinity Chapel, Aberdeen, 205.	Weather Craig, Peterculter, 110.
Tuliboy, 124.	Westertown, Maryculter, 196, 200.
Tulimaboythre, 115.	Westside, Maryculter, 179.
Tuliskeith, Maryculter, 185.	Wettshaw, Maryculter, 179.
Tulliallan, Perthshire, 135.	Whiteriggs, 48.
Tulloch (Tillyoch), Peterculter, 124.	Wick, 56.
Tulloch, 163.	Windsor, 13, 120.
Tyrie, 6.	Woodend, Durris, 23.
UDNY, 121.	



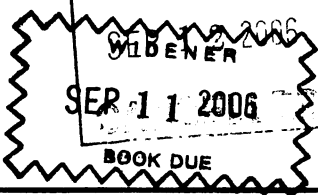




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